ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO COMMITTEES.

Mr. President: I have to announce that the following members have been duly elected for the various committees mentioned below:

1. Mr. A. L. Antony, 2. Mr. Ismail Hajee Essa Sait, 3. Mr. T. V. Subramania Ayyar.	The Standing Finance Committee.
1. Mr. V. K. Krishnankutty, 2. Mr. M. K. Devassy.	Advisory Committee on Education.
1. Mr. Shabdai S. Koder, 2. Mr. A. Eachara Menon.	Advisory Committee on Medical and Public Health.
1. Mr. Popatlal Goverdhan Lalan, 2. Mr. C. K. Subramanian.	Advisory Committee on Industries and Commerce including Forests, Fisheries and Public Works.
1. Mr. V. K. Kutty, 2. Mr. K. P. Vallon.	Advisory Committee on Agriculture and Co-operation, Panchayats and Depressed Classes.
1. Mr. T. K. Nayar, 2. Mr. K S. Panicker, 3. Mr. C. Kunhan Namburipad.	Road Board.
1. Mr. Puthoor Achyuta Menon, 2. Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.	Text-book Committee
1. L. M. Pylee.	College Advisory Committee.

I have also to announce that under Rule 4 of the Legislative Council Rules I have nominated Mr. C. R. Iyyunny and Mr. Govinda Pai for the Panel of Chairmen for this session of the Legislative Council.

THE COCHIN PAYMENT OF SALARIES AND ALLOWANCES BILL.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar: I rise to move that the Cochin Payment of Salaries and Allowances Bill be taken and finally passed by the Council.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran: I second it.

Motion put and carried.

THE COCHIN INCOME-TAX ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran: I rise to move that the Cochin Income-tax Act Amendment Bill be taken up and finally passed.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar: I second it.

Motion put and carried.

GENERAL DISCUSSION ON THE BUDGET.

Mr. President: The House will now take up the general discussion on the budget. According to the rules in the Standing Orders no member except the Finance Member can speak for more than 20 minutes. I think in order to enable as

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many hon'ble members to take part in the discussion it would be admissible to restrict the time and to adhere to it. If the House would agree I would fix it at 15 minutes for each member.

The House will now take up the general discussion on the budget.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon: I have to congratulate the Government on having been able to place before the public a surplus budget this year as well. But when it is found that the surplus is only one lakh and odd we are driven to think that at the end of the year it will be a deficit one as it used to be for the last four years. For, there is in the air that the Government should recoup the Palace Funds by one and a half lakhs this year itself. The Government have been living on wind falls. There is not a year in which something advantageous has not occurred to keep up a bright face in the year end, the disbursements have surpassed the budgetted amounts. I sometimes think that whatever be the capability of the chief executive it is of no avail unless the stars are in favourable positions in the horoscope of the Ruler. In our case there is no wonder for our Maharaja is the most fortunate and lucky personage now living in this matter. Even if it were so, I am afraid, there seems, a lurking fear pervades minds of the Government that if the budget happened to be a deficit one in the preparation of the same their occupation was gone. We see sums receipted are not collected and amounts budgetted are not spent. There are decreases in receipts in about six items. There is a big fall of about Rs. 21,700 under the sale proceeds of stationery and printing budgetted for 1114 even though the expenditure was increased by Rs. 9,000 and new materials have been proposed to be got down. Sir, we are to get only Rs. 1,500 from the investment of 2 lakhs and a quarter from the Potteries. We spend much and have a sale of about 7,000 rupees. But the net result is this poor income. The Government seems to addict to the Malayalam adage 'ഒരു പാറ്റിനുവേണ്ടി ഒരു മടാവ് വെള്ളം കോരിക്ക' (drinking a barreltul of water for one grain of rice at the bottom). We get only a sixth of what the Commission agent gets, a half of what it costs us for advertisement. This is really a sad state ot affairs. There must be something seriously wrong somewhere. A layman cannot be made to believe that such a vast difference can exist between a Governmental undertaking and a private undertaking. There is a vast difference in the pay of the Maistries and gardeners attached to the Palace Gardens from that of those attached to the other gardens. There is no 'Thiru' attached to the name of gardeners also for this invidious distinction In the budget for

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1114 we have budgetted Rs. 1,20,8800 under Excise and in the revised Budget of 1113, 1,21,000 and in the original budget it was 1,24,100. In the explanatory note given to the B. E., it is stated as follows: "The B. E. has been fixed at Rs. 1·21 lakhs against the budget and R. E. of 1·24 lakhs and 1·21 lakhs for 1113. The slight increase over the R. E. is the excess provision under leave allowance required for the leave of officers retiring in the course of 1114. I do not find any increase. It is a decrease. I do not know what use we can make of this explanation. There is proposed a larger expenditure than heretofore in printed forms and leave allowance under Panchayats. The leave allowance had risen up to Rs. 753 from the Revised budget of Rs. 174 which demands some explanation. Only an amount of Rs. 1,000 is shown under receipts for the sale proceeds of Jail manufacture for 1114 which is much lower than the budgetted amount for 1113 (Rs. 6,500). The increment under disbursements in uplift of the Depressed Classes seem to be directly proportional to the complaints against its governance.

Under Railway the reduction in expenditure was explained to be due to the corresponding fall in the earnings. But in 1113 there is a decrease in revenue and increase in expenditure compared with 1112. The budget for 1114 also shows a decrease in revenue and increase in expenditure. In the first case the explanation was that the increase or decrease in revenue was in direct proportion to the increase or decrease in expenditure but inverse seems to be the case in the last two years. Therefore the dictum that reduction in expenditure in the maintenance of the line corresponds to the fall in the earnings does not hold good.

The Government have found funds for providing for increased expenditure under Medical budget but they have not taken in hand to supply the public of Chittur a long-felt want for which let alone myself the people have been clamouring for a good number of years. What does it cause the Government for placing a lady doctor to attend to the ills of Chittur womenfolk. The Government cannot find the paltry sum of thousand and odd rupees for the same is a pity and that budget is going high every year.

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao: Chittur is getting a lady doctor.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon: Many thanks. In these days of the fickleness of the monsoon, there is no greater, more important, thing to do for the Government than to assist the agriculturists with water for irrigation facilites. They could easily have

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come to the aid of the ryots holding about three thousand acres of land under the Themparamadakku anicut in Chittur taluk by repairing the Kampalathara Eri which has almost been silted up. We were anxiously enquiring about it at the time of the preparation of the budget. We had information that survey had been finished and an estimate prepared. That was the reason that we did not stand on deputation before the Diwan. If you have not money for these paltry things which would be of immense benefit to the people why pose yourselves as a civilized Government? How long will this whitewashing hold good to you to be classified as such? How can your effort for rural reconstruction succeed if the economic position of the rural population is not improved? And how to improve it without providing for their successful cultivation and unfailing harvesting. Sir, by the Constitution Act you have taken away by the left hand what has been given by the righthand. We do not care for the Act so long as you are at the helm of affairs. But Sir, we are in constant fear of your being taken away to higher spheres of work. While hoping for your prosperity a feeling of sadness pervades us at the thought that you may make your exit before the work you have well-begun has not been successfully given a trial under your auspices. The Act will not help us much in that direction. Section 4 of that Act read with sub-section 4 of Section 5 holds plain before us that without you, without the guidance of a broadminded Diwan the gift is of no importance to us. We would not have moved an inch in our progress towards responsible Government. You have in most unmistakable language given us hopes that in the nurturing of the ministerial party, your own offspring, no effort will be reserved on your part. We have full confidence in your ability and good conscience to nourish that child in such a way as will be easy for it to have a flourishing growth to its manhood. But, Sir, as I said before the dame rumour is cruel and frightens us with the bogey of your exit at any moment. Therefore, it is, Sir, being impossible to gauge the mentality and large heartedness of your successor that we request you, to bring about a custom which have the force of law, to establish a *modus operandi* which would annihilate our fear of your successor clinging to the very letter of the Act and paving a way for the disestablishment of the most coveted constitutional reform. If this is not done, and with all haste, the slender edifice of ministerial Government being divest of your strong support will fall down like a pack of cards.

It is time to think of effecting some retrenchment in the salary of first class officers. It is not just and right to deprive

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such of those who are in that class and who are drawing the maximum of what they enjoy. But if any vacancy occurs it is possible to make a cut. The Chief Medical Officer when he had the portfolio of sanitation also was a second class officer. With the divesting him of the Sanitary Department he was made a first class officer. When the present incumbent vacates his place it is time for the Government to make it a second class office. Such retrenchments are very necessary. If we begin this now we will not have to be very restless when prohibition comes as come it will, willy-nilly. We are working towards a state of affairs where everybody has something to eat and that without tearing each other.

May I request you, Sir, to convey to His Highness the felicitations of my constituents and myself?

Dr. A. R. Menon: Sir, it is customary in this House when we begin the budget discussion either to convey our congratulations to the Finance Minister or of condemnation according as he has produced a surplus budget or a deficit budget. To my mind Sir, this seems to be meaningless because the Finance Minister though the name sounds very high possesses no more power than that of a head clerk or a post master. From every department the anticipated expenditures for the year are sent to him and only in cases whether this expenditure is more than that of the previous year, a note is forwarded to the Diwan to that effect. I have made an observation last year that the Finance Minister must even be independent of the Diwan so that there may be proper control and proper distribution of the national finances among the various departments. He should never be treated in the same way as the Diwan Peishkar or as the Police Commissioner, but as an officer of almost equal status with the Diwan with regard to the distribution of money and where there is a difference of opinion between the Diwan and the Finance Minister reference must be made to His Highness the Maharaja for final decision. I think, Sir, that the reform in that direction is absolutely essential if you want to have some substance, some life, in the financial statement made year after year in this House. Now Sir, it is not my intention to traverse through the various departments. But I would like to touch here and there in two or three departments.

I shall take the Railway. I was surprised when I heard the statement made by the Finance Minister. He made a very big calculation. He said that the total expenditure for

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introducing the Broad-gauge system amounted to Rs. 84 lakhs and he had added about 35 lakhs and he altogether brought in a total asset of 119·04 lakhs and then upon this 119·04 lakhs he made a calculation and he said that the State had derived 4·77 per cent. I submit, Sir, with due deference that it is a mis-calculation. No firm or business concern ever calculates the rate of interest upon the capital value after depreciation. Certainly in the assets and liabilities column you can see the depreciation. You ought to calculate the rate of interest on Rs. 150 lakhs which is the total capital invested in the Railway altogether. It will come to less than 4 per cent. That is the fallacy statement. I do not say that it was deliberately done thinking that we are big fools but in any case it is a fallacious statement and 4·77 is not the correct figure. Now if this principle of finance as adumbrated by the Finance Member is accepted, after 20 years our rate of interest will be 6 or 6½ per cent because depreciation of another 20 lakhs will take place by that time. Therefore I hope the Finance Minister in his reply will make any correction if I have made a mistake or if I have made a reasonable proposition he will be careful to make these calculations more correctly next year.

Now Sir, about Harbour, I do not wish to say much more than making this statement. It is all in a state of confusion in my mind. And I see a cent of land sold at the rate of Rs. 15—20 while a cent of land at Ernakulam foreshore fetches Rs. 1,000. I have not studied the question properly. I can always make great allowance when the Lion is engaged in a negotiation with a lamb and whatever the lamb gets must be considered its proper share. I am not at all satisfied with what we got considering the geographical situation, our interest and the proximity of the Port to us. We are more or less in the same position as the Government of Travancore with regard to the Port. Our possession of that Harbour is only in theory, but in practice I see no difference, between the Government of Travancore and ourselves with regard to its possession. I do not want, to commit myself more until I study the subject thoroughly well. All I want to say is that the amount of 3 or 4 lakhs derived from the royalty or selling the land and adding it as your assets and then converting a deficit budget into a surplus budget seems to me to be not a happy way of producing the budget (*Hear, hear*).

For these amounts are available only this year. You are not going to get royalty year after year whereas expenditure will be recurring year after year. Another point is that the

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Finance Minister anticipates nearly 11 lakhs for next year from petrol. We cannot say definitely whether we are going to get it or not. We may take it as probable but it is not a certain thing. Anyway last year at the beginning the budget was a surplus budget. Towards the end it became a deficit one. This year it would have been a deficit budget but for simply adding the amount that we derived by selling away our property. Certainly if you sell portions of Cochin State every year there shall not be a deficit budget. I want the Finance Minister to give us an explanation as to how he considers these items as proper sources of income. It is not a recurring income. There is no use to take credit when there is none.

Sir, you made a reference with regard to industries. I entirely endorse your view that this State is not adapted for any big scale industry and therefore we should concentrate our attention to Industries on small scales. You were also pleased to observe "I am not a believer of the States subsidising industry. Apart from my belief the resources of this Government will not permit the grant of any subsidy worth mentioning to any industry". I have no quarrel with the second part. But when you say that you are not a believer in the State subsidising any industry I most respectfully beg to differ from you. In the past every country which wanted to enter into industrial competition with a country well established in industry, the State subsidises and various enactments are brought forward to protect the nascent industries in the form of tariffs, in the form of excise duties and also in the form of subsidies. Even the great Japanese Empire had been advancing subsidies in millions for years for various industries. Similar, Germany also. If these countries required Government help,is it proper to say that a small country with economically weak people would be able to carry on these cottage industries without Government help. I am making this advisedly so that the Minister may not be taken to task if he fails to develop these cottage industries. Unless the Government is willing to come forward and shoulder a portion of the responsibility for regenerating these village industry there would be no village industries at all. I submit, that through the Co-operative Department or through any other agency it is the duty of the Government to supply them with raw material and to find a market as cheaply as possible for the sale of their goods. I was reading in the Madras Mail a speech delivered by Mr. Morrison, Agricultural Minister for England. He says: "With this object in view, the policy of the Government was to create stable market conditions in order to give assurance to home industry,

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to secure remunerative returns to farmers through action fitted to the cir cumstances of the various commodities they produce, and to assist industry to reduce the costs of production and distribution, and to improve the fertility of the land and the health of its flocks and herds." All these things they seem to think as the duty of the Government and I am not at all happy when I hear you say that it is no part of the duty of Government. I hope these aspects of the question will receive the attention of the Government which they deserve.

Sir, as regards retrenchment, I submitted a separate report in the Retrenchmeut Committee. We were only able to get the Government Orders upon it piecemeal. I have not seen any comprehensive order. I am hoping to hear from you what steps have been taken by Government on the various recommendations I have made. The Diwan observed that the expenditure on education is growing by leaps and bounds. If my proposals are accepted, it would give Government some 2 to 3 lakhs savings. I am still living in hopes to hear what objections the Government have in accepting these recommendations. In every Government School the expenditure is more than 100 per cent compared with the expenditure in Schools managed by Private agency. Even after detecting the grant given, there is a lot of wastage in the Department and it is high time to reduce that wastage so that new schools may spring up in the various parts of the State. By simply making some alterations in stamps and saving about Rs. 40,000 and by saying that it is a recurring saving will not save the financial stringency, unless you completely and exhaustively tackle these problems in a broad spirit. And various other recommendations have also been submitted to Government and my contention is that the Government must accept or the Government must give reasons why these recommendations could not be accepted.

Now, Sir, it is customary on these occasions of budget discussion sometimes to travel a little beyond the budget proper, for this is the only occasion we get to make a comprehensive review of the general administration of the State and I think I would not be out of place if I make one or two references with regard to the new reforms. Sir, when this reform was introduced, there were people who thought that already responsible Government was conceded. There were also others from whom we have a right to expect something better, who foolishly went about at public expense, without reading the Regulation, saying that this is nothing but the creation of a Deputy-Diwan. Between these two the truth lies. It takes all types of people to make the world and there is a place for the hermit as well as

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the harlet in the scheme of this universe. We have now to consider what all conditions are necessary to enable us to experiment this reform successfully. The union between the Government and ourselves is not a holy union under divine dispensation but only a marriage of conveyance of the worldly type. The only link that binds us together is a common purpose and a common desire to achieve a common end. In order that we may achieve that end, in order that the two sections may be kept together, two conditions are necessary. You are liable to think that we are the tail of the administration and when the head thinks, the tail will wag. If you think so, you are making a very grave mistake, for we reserve fully the right to criticise the actions of the Government in all the Departments excepting the transferred Departments. You must remember that it is not even dyarchy, but only the shadow of dyarchy. I am explaining the position bluntly; that is all. Therefore the Government must show considerable forbearance when we take an attitude of opposition towards Government on occasions. That attitude of ours should not be mistaken as an attempt to criticise the Government in season and out of season. If we unfortunately adopt that attitude, the Government may then very well exclaim 'Oh, save us from our friends'. Therefore we are placed in an awkward position. We are neither Government nor opposition but a little of both. We will try our best to see that the new system established shall be worked properly and satisfactorily so as to set an example to the various States. When I say this Sir, I see not only the faces of the hon'ble members here or the distinguished gathering sitting on the galleries but I see also faces living in more than 600 States scattered all over India waiting anxiously to see how we are experimenting with these reforms; for their future development is also involved to a very great extent in the success or failure of this reform. That is the reason why representatives from Mysore and Travancore came here to watch the experiment that we are making to-day and if this is failed, it will have its repercussions not only here, but all over India. As the Sun of autocracy sets in the democratic shadow will get broader and wider and longer. The experiment has just begun and we are very cautiously working it. The difficulty is always to dislodge the first brick and once the first brick is removed we can remove easily all the other bricks from the formidable citadel of autocracy. But if we are in too much of a hurry, the weight of the whole wall may fall upon us and crush us. Therfore with regard to further enlargement of reform we must hasten sternly. To practise democracy successfully, certain qualities are necessary. Political education of the masses, absence of communal spirit, a sense of responsibility and that eternal vigilance to safeguard liberty all these qualities will be acquired only slowly and

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with steady practice and with long practice. The Government have been pleased to grant this reform without any fight, without any violent political agitation without any demand.....

Mr. K. Ayyappan: So, you say that no demand has been made.

Dr. A. R. Menon: We have not demanded for the Minister.

Mr. K. Ayyappan: What do you mean by responsible Government without a Minister?

Dr. A. R. Menon: I say at least that this reform is not the result of the demand. Such demands were made in the various States and they met with dis-similar fates. At least give that credit to the Government, that the moment you made the demand they were willing to come forward and meet your demands. It is clear from every subsequent pronouncement, made by the Diwan on behalf of the Government, instead of whittling down the reforms, had the tendency of broadening and widening and enlarging the scope of the reform as far as possible. That shows the mentality of the Government. The mind is much more important than the brain. The noble impulses and the generous desire to serve the people are factors which should count much more in the progress of the nation than the brilliance and brightness of a statesman's brain. That is my view and so long as the Government are actuated by this principles, we think we are bound to do the very best we can to make this experiment a success. For that purpose, all the energy, all the resources and all the enthusiasm that we command will be brought to bear upon this problem. But we should not make haste. Now we have produced a workable scheme and as my learned friend the Professor has said the other day, we will go down in history as those who made the attempt of solving the problem of federation. And there is nothing greater and nothing nobler than this little State, with its Council of humble legislators should give a lead in the solution of this formidable problem which baffles the master minds all over India. The work is already begun and the end is in the hands of God.

Mr. V. J. Mathai: Mr. President Sir, I would be failing in my duty, if I do not join in the chorus of praise which is bestowed upon the Government for the magnanimous grant of responsible Government, partial though it may be, granted to us at a time when other States are clamouring for it and receiving bullets and shots in their fight to achieve at least some measure of responsible Government. In doing so I would request you to convey to His Highness the Maharaja the deep sense of gratitude which the people feel for the reform. I would also be failing in my duty, Sir, if I do not mention a word of praise

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for the consummate statesmanship which has actuated you to tender proper advice to the Maharaja at this time in taking such a bold lead. The idea that came uppermost in my mind when I witness what is happening to-day—I thought when I came to the House that the Ministerial party is also a part of the Government and I am disappointed to find Sir, that there are now three parties in this House, the Government party, the Ministerial party and the opposition—is that such a state of affairs ought not be created by the party in power or the Government.

Now passing on, Sir, I would submit that the first principle and the most cardinal principle which ought to guide the framers of any budget is the question as to whether the burden of taxation proposed to be imposed upon the people is one they could bear with any equanimity, without resorting to foolish retrenchment which might impair efficiency. In that matter Sir, I must confess that I have been disappointed. I am very sorry that having begun with a word of praise for the Government I should couple it with a word of dispraise for the taxation the Government seeks to impose upon the people. I submit Sir, that no wise farmer who plants trees would cut off the leaves and ultimately the stem and then wait for fruits, and fruits will never come. In this view also I say that the taxation is unjust. As the hon'ble member for Kunnamkulam submitted the other day, the average income of an individual in the Cochin State especially in the rural parts does not even amount to Rs. 20 per annum. And when we consider the budget we will find that the land revenue which the Government is now exacting from the people comes to Rs. 1—4—0 per head. When we come to salt—I submit that the ordinary workman consumes more salt than even the Diwan—an ordinary individual is taxed 7 as. per head. When we come to stamps, it comes to about 4 annas per head. On customs, I suppose we pay under that head, for the cloth that is imported, for the machinery that is imported and for the sugar that is imported, etc., Rs. 2 per head. When we come to Abkari and Ganja, a sum of 12 as. is collected per head. After all I say it is collected from very poor people because the higher communities, for instance Nairs, do not drink as a community. The same is the case with Muslims. What I submit, Sir, is that a sum of 12 as. is being collected per head for the sin of drinking and when we go further, we find that 2 as. 8 ps. under matches, 4 as. under tobacco, 5 as. under education and 8 as. under income-tax per head is collected per head. The sum total of all these exactions comes to Rs. 6 per head. I submit with all the emphasis I can command that this is heavy exaction from the agriculturists.

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That is a burden which the people cannot bear, much less the agriculturist who has got several other exactions coming to his share. With due respect to the Government Sir, I submit that to this sum total should be added mamools which are being collected for the protection of people by their so-called guardians. Everybody knows that there are exactions from people for petitions put in the Magistrates' Courts. There are certain mamools collected by the Police. I do not accuse them Sir, because you are paying only Rs. 11 or 12 to the policeman. To borrow from Shakespeare, 'Hath no Policeman eyes,

Hath no policeman a mouth,
Hath no policeman a stomach,
Hath no policeman wife and children.'

How do you expect a policeman to exist upon Rs. 12 while the chief of Police should require Rs. 800. So when we go deeply in the matter, Sir, we ought to include in the list of criminals the subordinates of the Criminal and Civil Courts. I submit Sir, from my experience that the Head Clerk of a Munsiff's Court gets more than what the Munsiff himself gets and I will be certainly supported in my statement by the learned ex-members of the profession who are now facing me opposite.

A man becomes a thief for stealing 10 cocoanuts worth 5 as. When he goes to the Criminal Court, a sum of 8 as. is being extracted from him by the clerk there. Who is a bigger criminal?—the man that has stolen 10 cocoanuts worth 5 as. or a clerk receiving 8 as. for some information that is given? I submit, Sir, that not even a single subordinate in the Criminal Judiciary will escape the charge. Passing on Sir, I wish to emphasise certain other aspects of the question also. We have to consider the gains and exactions made by the middleman.

As a result of all these I find that the agriculturist becomes thinner, their cattle become smaller, even the dogs look miserable now. I submit in all sincerity that a bold peasantry their country's pride, once destroyed can never be supplied. I view this budget with great anxiety because the burden imposed upon the people is very heavy, is too much that they cannot bear it.

Nextly we have to turn to the expenditure side. When we turn to the expenditure side, Sir, I submit much has to be said. The first thing is the high salary of the State Officials. I think a sum of Rs. 500 is more than enough for an honest official here. With Rs. 500 he can purchase 1200 paras of paddy and I do not think he requires more than a bag of rice, because

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he doesn't work as much as a common labourer. Therefore under the head 'Salaries' savings could be made.

Mr. K. Ayyappan: You voted Rs. 700 for the Minister.

Mr. V. J. Mathai: I do not like unnecessary interruptions. I have voted for Rs. 500 only.

Therefore my submission, Sir, is that a lot of savings could be made by a cut in the salaries. Then about the State Guest House, and treating of guests, what I have to say is that poor and starving population cannot afford to treat their guests in a sumptuous manner.

When I pass on Sir, I find that there are certain other heads that deserve special mention. The first is the railways. The figure given by the Finance Member that the dividend is 4·77 per cent is not correct. After some anxious working at the figures I find that it is only 4·25 per cent and as has been remarked already, a lot has to be deducted under depreciation. We are paying at the rate of 5 per cent interest on the loan we have taken. Then as regards the Chalakkudi potteries, I have already mentioned that it is unfortunate that more details are not given.

I find Sir, on a comparison, that the Cochin Government bonds are sold at a premium of 2—6 per cent whereas the Government of India bonds are sold at Rs. 106 and odd. While we are getting 102·6, the Travancore State bonds get much higher rate. All this is due to the reason that as has been stated by the Finance Member a sum of 3 lakhs has been eaten away in 1113 & 1112. That is, I submit, from the financial point of view a bad state of affairs.

Rama Varmha Tampuran: It is not at all correct.

Mr. V. J. Mathai: The time for these interruptions has to be deducted Sir.

In conclusion, Sir, out of the imperative demands of the clock which does not wait for me, I have to cut down my speech. I have finally to submit this. A great reduction in the expenditure is required not only in the matter of salaries, not only in the matter of miscellaneous expenditure, but under several heads. If that is not done and if the policy of the Government is carried on like this, I would submit Sir, that ultimately we will witness not only strikes by the industrial workers, but a strike by the farmers as well. Therefore I appeal to you now to see that the burden of taxation is made lighter and lighter until a time will come when no direct tax is collected—at least land revenue. I hope to visualise that time when the country-folk

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grow robust with good strong cattle allround and even dogs with a cheerful smile on their faces, when every rood of ground will maintain its man.

Mr. K. Ayyappan: സർ, ബഡ്ജറിനെപ്പറ്റി അധികമൊന്നും പറയേണ്ട ആവശ്യമില്ല. പറയുവാൻ ഞാൻ വിചാരിക്കുന്നുമില്ല. ആദ്യമായി ഈ പുതിയ പരിഷ്കരിച്ച നിയമസഭയിൽ പൊതുവിമർശനസമയത്തു് മഹാരാജാവു തിരുമനസ്സുകൊണ്ടു് അനുവദിച്ചുതന്നിട്ടുള്ളതായ ഭരണപരിഷ്കാരത്തെപ്പറ്റി ജനങ്ങൾക്കുള്ള നന്ദിയെ പ്രകടിപ്പിക്കേണ്ടതു് ഈ നിയമസഭയിലെ ഓരോ മെമ്പറുടേയും കടമയാണെന്നുള്ള സംഗതി ഞാൻ വിസ്മരിക്കുന്നില്ല. മഹാരാജാവു തിരുമനസ്സുകൊണ്ടും ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ ദിവാൻജിയവർകളും കാരുണ്യപൂർവ്വം ഈ വരം ജനങ്ങൾക്കു തന്നിരുന്നില്ലെങ്കിൽ ഇതു് നിണ്ടുപോകുമായിരുന്നുവെന്നുള്ളതിൽ അഭിപ്രായവ്യത്യാസമില്ല. പക്ഷെ ഈ കൃതജ്ഞത പ്രകടിപ്പിക്കുന്നതോടുകൂടി നമ്മൾ നമ്മളോടുതന്നെയുള്ള കൃതജ്ഞതയെ വിസ്മരിക്കുന്നതു് ശരിയല്ലെന്നാണു് എനിക്കു് ഈ നിയമസഭയോടു പറയുവാനുള്ളതു്. ഒരു നാട്ടുരാജ്യത്തിനും ഇനി ഉത്തരവാദിത്വഭരണവാദത്തെ പിടിച്ചുനിറുത്തുവാൻ ശക്തിയില്ലെന്നു് വിശ്വസിക്കുന്നവരിൽ ഒരുവനാണു് ഞാൻ. ഉത്തരവാദിത്വഭരണം ഏർപ്പെടുത്തിയതിനു് ആരെയെങ്കിലും പ്രശംസിക്കുന്നുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ പ്രശംസിക്കുമ്പോൾ സ്വയവും മറന്നു പ്രശംസിക്കുകയും ആക്ഷേപിക്കുമ്പോൾ സ്വയവും മറന്നു ആക്ഷേപിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നതു ശരിയല്ല.

ദിവാൻജിയവർകൾ ഇവിടത്തെ ചരിത്രം മുഴുവനും അറിഞ്ഞിരിക്കാനിടയില്ല. അദ്ദേഹത്തോടു് ഒരു സംഗതി എനിക്കു് പറഞ്ഞു മനസ്സിലാക്കുവാനുണ്ടു്. ഈ കൊച്ചി നിയമസഭ തുടങ്ങിയതുമുതൽ കൊച്ചിയിലെ ജനങ്ങൾ പ്രധാനമായി വാദിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതു് ഉത്തരവാദിത്വഭരണത്തിനു വേണ്ടിയാണു്. ഈ രാജ്യത്തു് സമുദായവ്യത്യാസമൊ വർഗ്ഗവ്യത്യാസമൊ യാതൊന്നുമില്ലാതെ ഈ നിയമസഭയിലെ സ്വയംഭരണങ്ങളും ചേർന്നു ശക്തിയായി വാദിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ, ശവമ്മെണ്ടിനെ എതിർത്തിട്ടുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ, ബഡ്ജറുപോലും തള്ളിക്കളഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ, സ്വയമെമ്പർമാരും യോജിച്ചുപോടുകൂടി വാദിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ അതു് ഉത്തരവാദിത്വഭരണസ്ഥാപനത്തിനു വേണ്ടിയാണു്. എന്നു വിചാരിച്ചു് ഈ പരിഷ്കാരം ഇപ്പോൾതന്നെ വരുമായിരുന്നു എന്നല്ല ഞാൻ പറയുന്നതു്. ദിവാൻജിയവർകളുടേയും മഹാരാജാവു തിരുമനസ്സിലേയും കാരുണ്യം ഇല്ലായിരുന്നുവെങ്കിൽ ഇതു് ഇനിയും നീണ്ടുപോകുമായിരുന്നു. അതിനു് മഹാരാജാവു തിരുമനസ്സിനോടും ദിവാൻജിയവർകളോടും ഈ രാജ്യത്തെ ജനങ്ങളും നിയമസഭാ മെമ്പർമാരും കൃതജ്ഞർ ആയിരിക്കേണ്ടതും ആയിരിക്കുന്നതുമാണു്.

ചോദിക്കാതെ തന്നതാണു് ഉത്തരവാദിത്വഭരണം എന്നിവിടെ പറഞ്ഞതിനെ ശക്തിയായി എതിർക്കേണ്ട ചുമതല ഈ കാര്യത്തിനു വേണ്ടി ആദ്യം മുതൽ പ്രവർത്തിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള എല്ലാവർക്കുമുണ്ടെന്നു് ഞാൻ ശവമ്മെണ്ടിനെ ധരിപ്പിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു. ഉത്തരവാദിത്വഭരണം തരുന്ന കാര്യത്തിൽ ഒരുമിച്ചുതോടുകൂടി പ്രവർത്തിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ദിവാൻജിയവർകളും മഹാരാജാവു തിരുമനസ്സുകൊണ്ടും ഡയാർക്കി (ദ്വിഭരണം) സ്ഥിതികളെല്ലാം മാറി പരിപൂർണ്ണമായ ഉത്തരവാദിത്വഭരണം ഈ നാട്ടിൽ ഏർപ്പെടുത്തുവാനുള്ള കാരുണ്യവും വിശാലമനസ്കതയും കാലം കാണുവാനുള്ള ബുദ്ധിയും കാണിക്കുമെന്നു ഞാൻ വിശ്വസിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നു.

മന്ത്രിയെ ആരും ചോദിച്ചിട്ടില്ല, തന്നതു് എന്നു് ഇവിടെ ഒരു മെമ്പർ പറയുകയുണ്ടായി. മന്ത്രിയില്ലാത്ത ഉത്തരവാദിത്വഭരണം എന്താണെന്നു ഏ

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നിക്ക മനസ്സിലാകുന്നില്ല. ഉത്തരവാദിത്വഭരണം എന്നുവെച്ചാൽ ജനങ്ങളോടു ഉത്തരവാദിത്വമുള്ള ഭരണം എന്നാണു്. അതു നടത്തുന്നവരെ നിങ്ങൾ മന്ത്രിയെന്നോ തന്ത്രിയെന്നോ പൂജാരിയെന്നോ എന്തു പേരു വേണമെങ്കിലും പറഞ്ഞുകൊള്ളുക. അതുകൊണ്ടു് ഉത്തരവാദഭരണം ജനങ്ങൾ ആവശ്യപ്പെട്ടിട്ടില്ലാത്തതാണെന്നു പറഞ്ഞതിനെ ഞാൻ ശക്തിയായി പ്രതിഷേധിക്കുന്നു.

ബഡ്ജറ്റു തയ്യാറാക്കുവാനുള്ള അധികാരം ദിവാൻജിയവർകൾക്കും മിനിസ്റ്റർക്കും ഉണ്ടായിരിക്കുമെന്നും അതിൽ റിസർവ്വ്ഡ് സബ്ജറ്റു് ദിവാൻജിയവർകൾക്കും ട്രാൻസ്ഫർസബ്ജറ്റു് മിനിസ്റ്റർക്കും ആയിരിക്കുമെന്നും ട്രാൻസ്ഫർ സബ്ജറ്റിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചുള്ള പ്രസംഗം മിനിസ്റ്റർ ചെയ്യുമെന്നും ബഡ്ജറ്റിൽ മിനിസ്റ്റരുടെ ബഡ്ജറ്റിനു് പ്രത്യേകം ഹെഡിംഗ് കൊടുത്തിരിക്കുമെന്നും അതിന്റെ സവ്വശങ്ങളേയും പറ്റി വാദിക്കേണ്ടതു മിനിസ്റ്റർ തന്നെയായിരിക്കുമെന്നും ആണു് ഞാൻ വിചാരിച്ചിരുന്നതു്. എന്നാൽ ബഡ്ജറ്റ എടുത്തു നോക്കിയപ്പോൾ ഞാൻ വളരെ നിരാശനാകുകയാണു് ചെയ്തതു്. അഞ്ചോ ആറോ സബ്ജറ്റിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചിടത്തോളം കൊടുത്തിട്ടുള്ള പണത്തെ ആവശ്യംപോലെ മാറ്റുകയും മറിക്കുകയും ന്യായങ്ങൾ വിശദീകരിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യുവാനുള്ള പൂർണ്ണാധികാരം മിനിസ്റ്റർക്കുണ്ടായിരുന്നു. അതു് അദ്ദേഹം ശരിക്കു നിവ്വഹിച്ചില്ലെങ്കിൽ അതു ശവമ്മെണ്ടിന്റെ കുറ്റമല്ല. ആ അധികാരം ഫിനാൻസ്മിനിസ്റ്റർക്കു് കൊടുക്കുവാൻ ഈ നിയമസഭ സമ്മതിക്കുവാൻ പാടില്ലാത്തതുമാണു്. കൂടുതൽ പണം കിട്ടാത്തതുകൊണ്ടു് പണമില്ലാതെ ചില കാര്യങ്ങൾ ചെയ്യുന്നതിനു നിവൃത്തിയില്ലാതെവരുമ്പോൾ മിനിസ്റ്ററെ ആരെങ്കിലും കുറ്റം പറയുന്നുവെങ്കിൽ അതിനെ ഞാൻ എതിർക്കുന്നു രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ നന്മയെ മുൻനിറുത്തി അവരുടെ ഔദ്യോഗസ്ഥഭാഗത്തുനിന്നും കാണിക്കുന്ന ധൈര്യത്തെ അഭിനന്ദനപൂവ്വം കൈക്കൊള്ളുവാൻ കഴിവുള്ള ഒരു ദിവാൻജിയും മഹാരാജാവു തിരുമനസ്സുകൊണ്ടുമാണു് നമുക്കുള്ളതു്. ഈ അവസരം നാം ശരിക്കുപയോഗിക്കുകയാണെങ്കിൽ നമുക്കു വിശിഷ്ടമായ പല കാര്യങ്ങളും നടത്തുവാൻ സാധിക്കും. അതിനു് എല്ലാവരും തുനിയുന്നില്ലെങ്കിൽ, അതിലേക്കു വേണ്ടിടത്തോളം ശ്രമിക്കുന്നില്ലെങ്കിൽ അതിനുള്ള കരുത്തു് കാണിയ്ക്കുന്നില്ലെങ്കിൽ, അതിനു വേണ്ടിടത്തോളം ത്യാഗത്തിനു് ഒരുങ്ങുന്നില്ലെങ്കിൽ വരുന്ന ദോഷമെല്ലാം നമുക്കാണു്.

നമ്മുടെ ഒരുമിപ്പുകേട്ടുകൊണ്ടു് ഭയങ്കരമായ ഒരു മാവി ഈ കൊച്ചിക്കു വന്നേക്കാമെന്നു് ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട തുക്കുർ മെമ്പർ പറയുകയുണ്ടായി.

Dr. A. R. Menon: അങ്ങിനെ പറഞ്ഞില്ല.

Mr. K. Ayyappan: പറഞ്ഞുകേട്ടതിൽനിന്നും ഞാൻ ധരിച്ചതു് അങ്ങിനെയാണു്.

Dr. A. R. Menon: അതു് തെറ്റാണു്.

Mr. K. Ayyappan: നമ്മൾ ശരിക്കു പെരുമാറിയില്ലെങ്കിൽ നമ്മുടെ സ്ഥാനത്തു വേറെ ആളുകളെ വക്കുവാൻ തുണിയുള്ള കൊച്ചിക്കാർ ഈ രാജ്യത്തുണ്ടു്. അതുകൊണ്ടു് വളരെ യോജിപ്പോടുകൂടി ധൈര്യത്തോടുകൂടി ത്യാഗത്തോടുകൂടി നിസ്സാരകാര്യങ്ങൾ എനിക്കു വേണം എനിക്കു വേണം എന്നുള്ള ബുദ്ധി കൂടാതെ ഇതുവരെ ഉത്തരവാദിത്വഭരണത്തിനു വാദിച്ചതുപോലെ ഇനിയും വാദിക്കുവാൻ—കിട്ടിയതിനെ വച്ചുകൊണ്ടു കൃതജ്ഞതയോടും ശക്തിയോടും കൂടി മേലും കൂടുതൽ അധികാരങ്ങൾക്കു വേണ്ടി വാദിക്കുവാൻ—ശ്രമിക്കുകയാണെന്നുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ അതിലേക്കു് ഇതിനേക്കാൾ നല്ലതായ ഒരു അവസരം, ഏറെ

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വും ശുഭകരമായ ഒരു അവസരം എളുപ്പം വരുവാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ലെന്നു് ഞാൻ വിശ്വസിക്കുന്നു.

ബഡ്ജറിനെപ്പറ്റി പറയുകയാണെങ്കിൽ ഈ സംഖ്യകൾ എങ്ങിനെ മാറ്റിമറിച്ചാലും ഏതാണ്ടു് ഇങ്ങിനെയൊക്കെതന്നെയല്ലാതെ വരുവാൻ തരമില്ലെന്നു് വിശ്വസിക്കുന്നവനാണു് ഞാൻ. ഇതു് ഞാൻ എന്റെ പാർട്ടിയുടെ അഭിപ്രായമല്ല പറയുന്നതു്. അങ്ങനെയുള്ള സംഖ്യകൊണ്ടു് ഒരു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെണ്ടിലേയും ആവശ്യങ്ങൾ നിറവേറുകയില്ല. ഉള്ളതുകൊണ്ടു് എങ്ങിനെയെല്ലാം ചെയ്യാമോ അങ്ങിനെയെല്ലാം ചെയ്യുവാനെ നിവൃത്തിയുള്ളു. ഉള്ളിടത്തോളം പണം റിസർവ്വ്ഡ് സബ്ജറ വകക്കും, ട്രാൻസ്ഫർസബ്ജറ വകക്കും പങ്കിടട്ടെ. പണം മുഴുവൻ ശരിക്കു ഉപയോഗിക്കുവാൻ വേണ്ടി ശ്രമിക്കണം. ആ കാര്യത്തിൽ വേണ്ട നിഷ്കർഷ കാണിക്കണമെന്നു് മിനിസ്റ്റരോടും ഭിവാൻജിയവർകളോടും അപേക്ഷിക്കുന്നു. മിനിസ്റ്ററുടെ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെണ്ടിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു് ഭിവാൻജിയവർകളോടു ചോദിക്കേണ്ട ആവശ്യമില്ല.

ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട തൃശ്ശൂർ മെമ്പർ പറഞ്ഞു അങ്ങിനെ തകർക്കും, ഇങ്ങിനെ തകർക്കും എന്നൊക്കെ.

Dr. A. R. Menon: ഞാൻ അങ്ങിനെ പറഞ്ഞിട്ടില്ല. ശരിക്കു മനസ്സിലാക്കീട്ടില്ലെന്നു തോന്നുന്നു.

Mr. K. Ayyappan: ഏതായാലും തൃശ്ശൂർ മെമ്പർ പറഞ്ഞ ഒരു സംഗതിയോടു ഞാൻ യോജിക്കുന്നു. അതിൽ യോജിക്കാതിരിക്കുവാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ല. അതായതു് യോജിപ്പോടുകൂടി പ്രവൃത്തിച്ചാൽ ഗുണമുണ്ടാകുമെന്നു് അദ്ദേഹം പറഞ്ഞതു് ശരിയാണു്.

ഞാൻ ഇവിടെ പറഞ്ഞതിൽ കൂടുതലായി ബഡ്ജറിനെപ്പറ്റി അധികമൊന്നും പറയുവാനില്ല. സ്ഥലം വിറ്റതിൽ വില കുറഞ്ഞുപോയി എന്നിവിടെ പറഞ്ഞതു ശരിയായിരിക്കാം. പക്ഷെ അതിനെപ്പറ്റി എനിക്കു് വലിയ പിടിയൊന്നുമില്ലാത്തതുകൊണ്ടു് ഞാൻ ഒന്നും പറയുന്നില്ല. എന്നാൽ ഭിവാൻജിയവർകളും പറഞ്ഞപ്പോൾ ഇതുയും മാത്രം മതിയൊ എന്നു് എനിക്കും തോന്നാതിരുന്നില്ല. തൃശ്ശൂർ മെമ്പർതന്നെ അതിനുള്ള കാരണവും പറഞ്ഞു. ആട്ടിൻകുട്ടിയും സിംഹവും തമ്മിലാണു് ആലോചനകൾ നടന്നതു്. ആ ആലോചനയിൽ കഴിയുന്നതും ഗുണം വരുത്തീട്ടുണ്ടൊ എന്നമാത്രമേ നോക്കാനുള്ളു. ആ നിലയിൽ നമ്മുടെ ഭിവാൻജിയവർകളും കഴിയുന്നതും കൊച്ചിയുടെ താല്പര്യം വിടാതെ നോക്കിയിരിക്കുമെന്നു വിശ്വസിക്കുന്നവനാണു് ഞാൻ. അതുകൊണ്ടു് ആ സംഗതിയെക്കുറിച്ചു് ഞാൻ അധികമൊന്നും പറയുന്നില്ല.

Mr. M. K. Devassy: Mr. President, Sir, I never thought that even at this innocent stage of the Budget discussion we will have occasion to rise to such an emotional debate between the two parties. We are discussing a memorable and epoch-making budget which for the first time in the annals of our State has eminated at least in part from a responsible Minister of this House. I think I shall be failing in my duty if, before approaching such a budget, I refrain from adding my feeble voice to the general chorous of acclamation, rejoice and gratitude which the progressive and enlightened reforms inaugurated under the new constitution have attracted from all parts of our country. But while doing so, Sir, I am reminded of the two important ordeals

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which a criminal before a court of law has to undergo, I mean the stage of bail and the stage of acquittal, of which the first gives but a temporary and a transitory relief while the second and the second alone can give a permanent relief. While I am thankful to the Diwan for the generous advice tendered by him to our beloved Highness to release his subjects on bail by the grant of partial responsible Government I do so, Sir, with the immediate and no less fervent hope that the same counsel who has secured our release on bail will also secure our final liberation and lead to that golden goal when we shall rejoice with him in the attainment of full responsible Government, in the fulfilment of the promises of decades and the realisation of the aspirations of generations. I am also confident that the acceptance of the Ministry by the Cochin Congress Party will not be construed either by this House, or the public or the Government as a complete satisfaction petition of all our claims for full responsible Government. Sir, so far as I can see, it is only an honourable response to that challenge which responsible criticism always implies that the fault finder should also be prepared to be found fault with, that the soldier should not only learn to attack but also to defend. I expected that these reforms will be crowned by a repeal of our disgraceful Press Law. Although we are led to disappointment on that score I hope that we will not be kept up in this disappointment for long.

I have taken, Sir, some pains to study this year's Budget with some sort of carefulness. While I am thankful to the Government for the additional grant of Rs. 20,000 to the Minister of Rural Development and the starting of a Rural Reconstruction Centre at Cherpu and the economy effected in the matter of Stamps, I am constrained to remark, with all the sympathy and tolerance I can command, that I cannot say with any sense of honesty that this year's budget, especially with regard to the reserved subjects, is either fully satisfactory to our ambitions. With the tendency shown by the Government to adapt itself more favourably to the contentment of the people I was expecting that this year's budget will be influenced by some of those salient features which characterise our sister Budget in Madras. At least a nominal reduction in the land revenue, better amenities to villagers, and better aid to industries, a well planned irrigation scheme and a well planned medical scheme, some solution for the ever increasing problems of unemployment, beggary and poverty, an experimental prohibition on a small scale I hope the Hon'ble Member for Excise will not take objection to this—these, Sir, were some of the legitimate aspirations and expectations entertained by those who watch with interest the progress of our State. While we want our State, Sir, to be more humanitarian

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and sympathetic towards the humble prisoners within the four walls of our Central and Sub-Jails and less of force in our State—I am in no way prejudiced against the Hon'ble Member for Police for whom I have very great respect but because I am convinced that the semi-starving man has little strength to stand the terrifying look of the sturdy Constable, I find with a sense of regret a reduction in the expenditure for jails and an increase in the allotment for the Police. While we are keeping these prisoners within the four walls of our Sub-Jails, Sir, we seldom remember that many of them might be crowned with wreaths of innocence by a court of law. That is why we find that the Madras Ministry in spite of the teeming demands which it had to face found some small provision to supply these prisoners with some butter-milk. I, therefore, would suggest that a substantial portion of the ·111 lakhs of rupees allotted towards the increment in the Police Department goes towards the improvement of the lot of our prisoners.

Sir, I am thankful, as I said, to the Government and I really congratulate the Government on the economy effected in the matter of printing stamps in India. In fact this was a suggestion that has been brought to this House on several occasions. That suggestion was not to print it in India but for printing it in our own Government Press. I wish very much that with the increased facilities of our Government Press we do it in our press itself and gain further economy.

While I find in the Hon'ble Finance Member's Explanatory Memorandum almost one paragraph devoted to the new system followed in the matter of distributing Stationery and Printing work to the several heads of departments with a view to avoid a cumbrous process and ensure economy I am surprised, Sir, to find an additional allotment of Rs. 10,000 for this identical item. If this is the economy for which you stand, Sir, I would rather wish that we put up with the cumbrous process than lose Rs. 10,000 on paper and ink. I am also surprised, Sir, to find a decrease in the allotment for Public Works to the extent of 1½ lakhs of rupees and our Finance Member has cleverly, and significantly, forgotten to give any explanation in the matter. I cannot understand, Sir, how in a State like Cochin where in spite of our attempts, our scrupulous attempts, at improving the roads and means of communication in the State, we get a large number of villages which are ill-provided with roads and if there are roads, ill-maintained, we could afford to have such a threatening cut in the allotment for the Public Works Department. I hail from a constituency, Sir, which is awfully in requirement of roads. I may point out in this connection that the whole of the Adoor

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Constituency has been practically divided into two halves by a river and we get roads from north and south leading to the river almost extending from 8 to 10 miles and left absolutely useless for want of a bridge, and the obvious course we have been subjected to is that we have to start from one end of the world and go round and reach the other end which will take at least half a day.

Sir, I may point out in this connection that the irrigation facilities which we get in our country are absolutely meagre and insufficient. It need hardly be said that a State like Cochin which has got a population mainly depending on agriculture as their main stay should realise that unless we improve the condition of the agriculturists to a considerable extent it has to be seriously suspected that the prosperity of our country will soon crumble to pieces, if the process has not already begun. Although this part of Malabar is certainly famous for its abundant supply of water, it is not seldom that we hear of instances of failure of crops either for excess of rain or for want of it. I do think that this problem can be got over only by a systematic process of an irrigation programme being followed throughout the State. And if possible a committee should be appointed to study the situation and point out the various irrigation canals that will have to be opened. Then our Minister may be allowed freedom of starting a long programme which will enure to the benefit of the State.

I am thankful to the Government for the additional allotment of Rs. 20,000 which has been made over to this Department. But I must remark that considering the teeming demands which are almost pouncing upon our Minister this allotment is absolutely meagre and insufficient. I would further point out that if His Highness wants his subjects to reap the real fruits of the reform it can only be done by strengthening the purse of the Minister to a considerable extent.

With regard to agriculture I would like to say a word or two. Though the Minister belongs to our Party and he is our Leader, since I am conscious that he has taken charge of his office only recently and is only going to show us what he is going to do in future in that Department I think I shall be excused if I make a few remarks on the agricultural department of the State. I would like to point out that in spite of the vast sums that are now spent upon our Central Farm which I would call a stupendous monument of misdirected energy and capital, all that we spend on agriculture is only 1·58 per cent of our total expenses as compared with 3·38 per cent in United Provinces and 3·02 in Bengal. I would like to point out, Sir, that though we hear very much

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about labourers and more particularly about industrial labourers, they forming a more organised class, the case of the agricultural labourer is in no way less acute. While in the case of the industrial labourer the competition is not so much of a class-war as between one country and another, in the case of agriculture it is a regular competition between the land and the cultivator on the one side, on the part of the land not to yield and the cultivator to make it yield, between the jenmi and the tenant, and between the producer and the consumer. I cannot say that the agricultural department is of real service to our country as long as the only purpose is a sporadic attempt at exhibiting the superfluous knowledge of agriculture on the part of the agricultural botanist at the expense of our public money. I would certainly think that unless we try our best to popularise the scientific mode of cultivation, unless we can supply the people with modern implements, unless we can teach them the new methods of cultivation by appointing an officer to every village, and unless we help the agriculturists at the time of harvest to enable him to keep his paddy in store until the prices go up by granting temporary loans, I think, Sir, this department is not going to do us much good. I would, therefore, think that on the matter of agriculture and irrigation especially, the Government will be pleased to bestow its kind attention.

I would like in this connection to make a statement regarding our Medical Department. No doubt, it is not my purpose in doing so to pass any remark on any of the officers concerned with the Medical Department. My purpose is only to better the policy of the Government with regard to the medical aid in our State. I wish to point out that though in recent years it has been the policy of the Government to give some grants to private medical institutions, both in the Allopathic and Ayurvedic Departments, it has been my experience to see that some of the Ayurvedic Dispensaries are symbols of poverty and people who are appointed there, though much equipped in learning, are not in a position to supply the people with medicine.

I would, in this connection, Sir, on behalf of my constituency, like to draw the attention of the Government to the poverty stricken condition of the Ayurvedic Dispensary that has been attached to the Annamanada Panchayat. I would think that if our Government can conduct an economic survey, a co-operative survey or an educational survey, it would be more useful if our State were to embark upon a medical survey. Then we can know the exact places where to start a dispensary in future and the exact centres which require Medical aid. One cannot feel happy to know that in the course of three long years we have an increase

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of only three hospitals while every year we get an increase of 30,000 patients. And, Sir, it is certainly a matter of disgrace that in a civilised State like Cochin we get only one dispensary for every 27 square miles and for every 21,000 people. I would, therefore, recommend that a medical survey be conducted with a view to fix different places where medical institutions have to be started and that the programme which the surveyor recommends is carried out as soon as we can. I am one of those who wish to see that we supply every five square miles or if that is not possible at least every 10 square miles with a dispensary. I would further suggest in this connection that though we have got hospitals and dispensaries very often great difficulty is felt on the part of the poor patients to reach these dispensaries and hospitals and I think it will be really serviceable if we have got an ambulance corps attached to every dispensary to take helpless patients to dispensaries.

Sir, I wish to pass a few remarks on the policy followed by the Government with regard to the poor problem in Cochin.

Mr. President: The Hon'ble Member's time is up.

Mr. M. K. Devassy: I will take only two minutes, Sir.

I will briefly point out that with regard to the poor problem we have to follow a policy of both a constructive and a legislative nature.

Mr. President: You have tabled a cut on this point.

Mr. M. K. Devassy: Yes. Since I have brought a cut motion on this point I do not want to deal with it in detail now.

Before I conclude, Sir, I wish to pass a few remarks on taxation. Taxation is certainly a necessity but it is a weapon which the Government should utilise with great care. The people of Cochin, Sir, are one of the most heavily taxed. I do not think I am wrong when I compare the taxes which we get here and in Travancore. Not only the land, from which the staple food of our land is got, is heavily taxed but even the salt has been indirectly taxed. In the year 1936 some of our native States and Provinces entered into an unholy agreement with the Imperial Government which resulted in the taxation of fire too, which, Sir, we have got in the shape of the benevolent Excise duty on Matches Act. I can understand, Sir, whether under the protection of Imperial Act or not, any taxation on luxuries. But I cannot understand how this Government can be a party to the taxation on the food that one takes, on the salt with which it is taken and on the fire with which one has to cook it. We, Sir, should allow people to live. And this we can do only by limiting taxation to luxuries.

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Now, with regard to the Budget: I have nothing to say about the surplus nature of the budget. The question is not whether it is a surplus budget, a deficit budget or a balanced budget. The real test is whether the tax collected from the people has been so utilised as to ensure the maximum amount of happiness to the maximum number of the subjects. Whatever be the estimates that we find in the budget now, if every pie that is in the budget is properly utilised for the benefit of the people and if the Government and those who represent the Government feel that every man who suffers is their own son and if they think that the man who lies in the street gasping to death and calling for water to drink is their own brother, I have no doubt that, our Government can certainly aspire for a day when Cochin will no more be a land of famine, and no more a land of distress. I wish for that day and I conclude.

The House rose for lunch at 1 p. m. and reassembled at 2-30 p. m. with the Deputy President in the Chair.

Mr. Deputy President: Hon'ble members, before resuming the general discussion on the budget may I thank you all for the great honour that you have done me in electing me as the Deputy President of this Council. I am extremely glad that I have been elected unopposed. While I am conscious of the heavy responsibilities attached to this post and also of my limitations, I may assure you that it shall be my earnest endeavour to discharge my responsibilities in such a way as to justify the confidence you have reposed in me, and to maintain the high traditions of this office and the privileges of this House. In that endeavour I request you all to render me your hearty support and make my attempt a success. I solicit your hearty co-operation for the discharge of my duties. Once more I thank you all.

Mr. V. K. Kutty: മിസ്റ്റർ പ്രസിഡണ്ട്, സർ, ബഡ്ജറിനെപ്പറ്റിയുള്ള പൊതു വിമർശനത്തിനു കടക്കുന്നതിനു മുമ്പായി തൊഴിലാളികളുടെ പൊതുതാല്പര്യത്തിനു നിയമസഭയിൽ ഇടംപ്രഥമമായി പ്രാതിനിദ്ധ്യം അനുവദിച്ചതിൽ രാജ്യത്തെ ബഹു ഭൂരിപക്ഷംവരുന്ന തൊഴിലാളിലോകത്തിനു മഹാരാജാവു തിരുമനസ്സിലെ നേക്കുള്ള അകൈതവമായ കൃതജ്ഞതയെ ഇവിടെ പ്രകടിപ്പിക്കുവാൻ ഞാൻ ആഗ്രഹിക്കുന്നു. തൊഴിലാളികൾക്കു വേണ്ടപോലെയുള്ള സംഘടനകൾ ഉണ്ടായിട്ടില്ലാത്തതുകൊണ്ടു തിരഞ്ഞെടുപ്പുമൂലമുള്ള പ്രാതിനിദ്ധ്യം അവർക്കു അനുവദിക്കുവാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ലെന്നതായിരുന്നു ഫ്രാഞ്ചൈസു കമ്മറിയുടെ നില. എങ്കിലും വിപുലങ്ങളായ അവകാശങ്ങളോടും അധികാരങ്ങളോടും കൂടി വികസിച്ച പുതിയ നിയമസഭയിൽ തൊഴിലാളികളുടെ താല്പര്യത്തിനു ഏതു വിധവും പ്രാതിനിദ്ധ്യം നൽകേണ്ടതത്യാവശ്യമാണെന്നു കണ്ടു തല്ക്കാല പരിതസ്ഥിതിയിൽ നോമിനേഷൻ നൽകാൻ മഹാരാജാവു തിരുമനസ്സിലെ ഉപദേശിച്ചു തിരുമനസ്സിലെ ജനസമ്മതനും ദീർഘാന്തര പ്രശസ്തനുമായ ദിവാൻജിയോടും തൊഴിലാളിലോകം കൃതജ്ഞരാണു.

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തൊഴിലാളികൾ അവരുടെ ഈ കൃതജ്ഞതയെ ഇതിനകം പരസ്യമായി പ്രകടിപ്പിച്ചുകഴിഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ട്. തൊഴിലാളികൾക്കു നിയമസഭയിൽ പ്രാതിനിധ്യം അനുവദിച്ചതിൽ അവർക്കും തൊഴിലാളി പ്രതിനിധിയായി എന്നെ നിയമിച്ചതിൽ എനിക്കും നമ്മുടെ പ്രജാവത്സലനും കരുണാനിധിയുമായ മഹാരാജാവു തിരുമനസ്സിലെ നേക്കുള്ള കൃതജ്ഞതയേയും തൊഴിലാളിലോകത്തിനു തിരുമനസ്സിലെ നേക്കുള്ള നിർഭരമായ ഭക്തിവിശ്വാസങ്ങളേയും തിരുമനസ്സറിയിക്കുവാൻ ദയവുണ്ടാകേണമെന്നു ഞാൻ ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട ദിവാൻ പ്രസിഡണ്ടു അവർകളോടു അപേക്ഷിക്കുന്നു.

തൊഴിലാളികളുടെ നാനാവിധങ്ങളായ താല്പര്യങ്ങളെ പ്രതിനിധീകരിക്കുവാൻ ഒരാൾ മാത്രമെ പ്രത്യേകം നിയമിക്കപ്പെട്ടിട്ടുള്ളുവെങ്കിലും ആ വിഷയത്തിൽ ഞാൻ ഏകനാണെന്നു ഭയപ്പെടേണ്ട ആവശ്യം എനിക്കില്ലെന്നു ഞാൻ ധൈര്യപ്പെടുന്നു. കഴിഞ്ഞ നിയമസഭയിൽ എന്റെ സഹപ്രവർത്തകന്മാരായിരുന്ന പലരും ഇപ്പോഴും ഇവിടെയുണ്ടു. തൊഴിലാളികളുടെ കാര്യങ്ങളിൽ പ്രത്യേകം ശ്രദ്ധയുള്ള അവരുടെ സാന്നിദ്ധ്യം എനിക്കു പ്രത്യാശയും പ്രോത്സാഹനവും നൽകുന്നു.

സർ, തൊഴിലാളിലോകത്തോടു അങ്ങയുടെ ഭരണം കുറെക്കൂടി ഉദാരമായ ഒരു നയവും അനുകമ്പയും പ്രദർശിപ്പിക്കാൻ ശ്രമിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നുള്ളതു അവർ കൃതജ്ഞതയോടുകൂടി അറിയുന്നു. ഫാക്ടറി റഗുലേഷൻ പരിഷ്കരിച്ചതിലും വർക്കുമെൻസു കോമ്പൻസേഷൻ ആക്ടു നടപ്പിൽ വരുത്തിയതിലും മറ്റും അങ്ങു പ്രദർശിപ്പിച്ച ശ്രദ്ധയും ഉത്സാഹവും ഞങ്ങൾ ഓർക്കുന്നു. ഞാൻ തൊഴിലാളി നോമിനേഷൻ സ്വീകരിച്ചതു വലിയ ആത്മവിശ്വാസത്തോടും പ്രത്യാശയോടും കൂടിയാണു. "സർ, തൊഴിലാളിക്കളുടെ ക്ഷേമമാണു രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ പൊതുവായ ക്ഷേമമെന്നും സംതൃപ്തരും സമാധാനപരരുമായ ഒരു തൊഴിലാളിലോകം രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ വ്യാവസായിക പുരോഗതിക്കും തദ്വാരാ സാമ്പത്തികക്ഷേമത്തിനും അനുപേക്ഷണീയമാണെന്നും ദൃഢമായി വിശ്വസിക്കുന്ന അങ്ങയുടെ നേതൃത്വത്തിൽ കൊച്ചി ഗവണ്മെണ്ടു പൊതുവെ തൊഴിലാളികളുടെ ദുരിത നിവാരണത്തിനു അത്യാവശ്യമായ മറ്റു നിയമനിർമ്മാണങ്ങൾക്കും വേണ്ട നടപടികൾ കാലതാമസം കൂടാതെ സ്വീകരിക്കുമെന്നു ഞാൻ വിശ്വസിക്കുകയും ആ വിഷയത്തിലേക്കു ഗവണ്മെണ്ടിന്റെ സത്വരശ്രദ്ധയെ ക്ഷണിക്കയും ചെയ്തുകൊള്ളുന്നു. കൊച്ചിയുടെ ചരിത്രത്തിൽ പുതിയതും ഉന്മേഷപൂർണ്ണവുമായ ഒരദ്ധ്യായമാണു ഇപ്പോൾ ആരംഭിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതു. ഫ്രാഞ്ചൈസു വിപുലമാക്കിയതോടുകൂടി നിയമസഭാ കൂടുതൽ ജനങ്ങളെ പ്രതിനിധീകരിക്കുന്ന ഒന്നായിത്തീർന്നിരിക്കുന്നു. എങ്കിലും കൊച്ചിയുടെ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസ പുരോഗതിയേയും വർദ്ധമാനമായ പൌരബോധത്തേയും പറ്റി ആലോചിക്കുമ്പോൾ ഇൻഡ്യയിൽ പ്രായപൂർത്തി വോട്ടവകാശം നടപ്പിലാക്കാൻ കൊച്ചിയെപ്പോലെ പറ്റിയ ഒരു രാജ്യം വേറെയില്ലെന്നു സധൈര്യം പറയാം. അതു സാധിച്ചിട്ടില്ലാത്തതു കൊച്ചീക്കു വലിയൊരു പോരായ്മയാണു. പടിപടിയായി പരിഷ്കാരം നടപ്പാക്കുന്നതിൽ വിശ്വസിക്കുന്ന കൊച്ചി ഗവണ്മെണ്ടിന്റെ ഭരണപരിഷ്കാരത്തിലെ അടുത്ത പടി പ്രായപൂർത്തി വോട്ടും പരിപൂർണ്ണമായ ഉത്തരവാദഭരണസ്ഥാപനവുമായിരിക്കുമെന്നു ഞങ്ങൾ വിശ്വസിക്കുന്നു. രാജ്യത്തെ ബഹുഭൂരിപക്ഷത്തിന്റെ താല്പര്യങ്ങൾക്കു ശരിയായ പ്രാതിനിധ്യവും സംരക്ഷണവും ലഭിക്കാൻ ഇതു രണ്ടും കൂടിയേകഴിയൂ എന്നിരിക്കിലും ആ ലക്ഷ്യത്തെ മുൻനിറുത്തി ആരംഭിച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന ഭരണപരിഷ്കാരത്തെ ഈ രാജ്യത്തെ തൊഴിലാളിലോകവും സഹർഷം സ്വാഗതം ചെയ്യുന്നു. ഈ ഭരണഘടനയാൽ നമ്മുടെ പ്രഥമ ജനകീയ മന്ത്രിയാകാൻ സൌകര്യം ലഭിച്ച എന്റെ ബഹുമാന്യ മിത്ര

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വും പരിണതപ്രജ്ഞനും പ്രായോഗിക രാജ്യതന്ത്രജ്ഞനുമായ ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട ശിവരാമമേനോൻ അവർകളെ തൊഴിലാളികളുടെ നാമത്തിൽ ഞാൻ അനുമോദിക്കയും അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ ഭരണത്തിന്നു് സർവ്വ വിജയങ്ങളേയും ആശംസിക്കയും ചെയ്തുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

നമ്മുടെ ഇത്തവണത്തെ ബഡ്ജറ്റിൽ ഒരു ഗണ്യമായ തുക ബാക്കിവെക്കാൻ കഴിഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നു കാണുന്നതു് അഭിമാനകരമാണു്. ഒരു ലക്ഷം രൂപായോളം മുൻകൊല്ലങ്ങളെ അപേക്ഷിച്ചു് ഗവൺമ്മെണ്ടിന്നു് ചിലവിന്നിരുന്ന സംഖ്യയിൽനിന്നും സാധനങ്ങളുടെ എണ്ണം കുറക്കാതെ രക്ഷപ്പെടുത്തുവാൻ കഴിഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ടു്. എങ്കിലും തൊഴിലാളിയുടേയോ സാധാരണക്കാരന്റേയോ ഒരു ബഡ്ജറല്ല ഇതു്. രാജ്യത്തിലെ ഭൂരിപക്ഷം വരുന്നവരും രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ നട്ടെല്ലെന്നു പറയപ്പെടുന്നവരുമായ തൊഴിലാളികൾക്കു, പാവപ്പെട്ട വേലക്കാർക്കു, അതിൽ കായ്മായി യാതൊന്നുമില്ല. രാജ്യത്തെ മുതലെടുപ്പിൽ മൂന്നിലൊന്നു് ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർക്കു ശമ്പളമായി പോകേണ്ടിവരുന്നു. ബാക്കിയുള്ളതിലും ഭൂരിഭാഗം സ്ഥാപിതതാല്പര്യക്കാരുടെ സംരക്ഷണക്കും സുഖഭോഗങ്ങൾക്കുമാണെന്നു പറഞ്ഞാലും വലിയ അതിശയോക്തിയില്ല.

രാജ്യത്തെ മുതലെടുപ്പു മിക്കവാറും പണക്കാരിൽനിന്നും ഭൂമിയുടമസ്ഥന്മാരിൽനിന്നും മറ്റു മുതലാളിമാരിൽനിന്നുമാണെന്നു ഒരു വിശ്വാസമുണ്ടു്. എന്നാൽ ഇൻഡയറക്ടു് നികുതിവഴി രാജ്യത്തെ സാമാന്യ ജനങ്ങളിൽനിന്നും ഗവൺമ്മെണ്ടിന്നു ലഭിക്കുന്ന ആദായം ഭൂനികുതിയുടേയും ആദായനികുതിയുടേയും ഏതാണ്ടു രണ്ടിരട്ടിയെങ്കിലും വരുമെന്നതോർക്കുമ്പോൾ ജനസാമാന്യം അഥവാ തൊഴിലാളിലോകം പൊതുവെ ഗവൺമ്മെണ്ടിന്നു നൽകുന്ന ഓഹരി സാരമായ തന്നാണെന്നു നമുക്കു ബോദ്ധ്യമാകുന്നതാണു്. അതുകൊണ്ടു ബഡ്ജറു രൂപീകരിക്കുമ്പോൾ അവരുടെ കായ്ക്കുന്നിന്നു് പ്രാധാന്യം മുൻഗണ്യ നൽകുണമെന്നു വാദിക്കുവാൻ ന്യായമായ അവകാശമുണ്ടു്. എന്നാൽ തൊഴിലാളികളുടെ രക്ഷക്കായി മുൻകൊല്ലങ്ങളിലെ ബഡ്ജറിനെ അപേക്ഷിച്ചു് ആവശ്യമായ വർദ്ധനകൾ ഇതിൽ കൊള്ളിച്ചിട്ടില്ലെന്നു പറയാതിരിക്കുവാൻ എനിക്കു നിവൃത്തിയില്ല. ഫാക്ടറി-കളും ഫാക്ടറി-കളുമുള്ള ബഡ്ജറുകളിൽ ഏതാനും കമ്പനികൾ സ്റ്റോറിന്റെ നാനാഭോഗങ്ങളിലായി സ്ഥാപിക്കുന്നതിന്നും അതിന്നുവേണ്ടി ചില സഹായം ചെയ്യുന്നതിന്നും സംഖ്യ കൊള്ളിച്ചിരുന്നു. ഇക്കൊല്ലത്തിലാകട്ടെ അതുപോലെയുള്ള കമ്പനികൾ സ്ഥാപിച്ചു് നാട്ടിൽ തൊഴിലുകൾ ഉണ്ടാക്കുന്നതിനു വേണ്ട മാറ്റങ്ങൾ ചെയ്യുന്നതിന്നു് യാതൊരു സംഖ്യയും കൊള്ളിച്ചിട്ടില്ലെന്ന സംഗതി ഈ ബഡ്ജറിന്നും ഈ നിയമസഭക്കും വലുതായ കുറവായിട്ടുണ്ടു്. ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട മന്ത്രി അവർകൾക്കു് ഈ തവണത്തെ ബഡ്ജറിൽ കായ്മായി ഒന്നും പ്രവൃത്തിക്കുവാൻ കഴിഞ്ഞിട്ടില്ലെന്നുള്ളതും ഞാൻ ഈ അവസരത്തിൽ സ്മരിക്കുന്നു. രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ നാനാഭാഗങ്ങളിലായി അനേകം തൊഴിലാളികൾ തൊഴിലില്ലാതെ കഷ്ടത അനുഭവിക്കുന്നുണ്ടു". മന്ത്രി അവർകളുടെ ശ്രദ്ധ ഈ വിഷയത്തിൽ പതിക്കണമെന്നു ഞാൻ അദ്ദേഹത്തെ ഓർമ്മപ്പെടുത്തികൊള്ളുന്നു.

പല സാഹചര്യ വിശേഷങ്ങളാലും തൊഴിലില്ലായ്മ രാജ്യത്തു് ഭയങ്കരമായി വർദ്ധിച്ചുവരികയാണു്. നാട്ടിൻ പുറങ്ങളിൽ ഇറങ്ങി നടന്നാലെന്നും പട്ടിണിയുടെ നഗ്നരൂപം കാണുകയുള്ളൂ. ഒരു നേരത്തെ ആഹാരം വയർ നിറയെ കഴിക്കുവാൻ സാധിക്കുന്നവർ തന്നെ വളരെ ചുരുക്കമാണു്. കയറിന്റെ വിലയിടിവു നിമിത്തം മടല തല്ലിയും കയർ പിരിച്ചും മറ്റും പട്ടിണി കൂടാതെ കഴിഞ്ഞിരുന്നവരുടെ സ്ഥിതി ഇന്നു ദയനീയമായി തീർന്നിരിക്കുന്നു. നാട്ടിൻപുറങ്ങളിലെ ക്ഷാമത്തെയും പട്ടി

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ണി കിടന്നു വലയുന്ന തൊഴിലാളികളുടെ സങ്കടത്തെയും പരിഹരിക്കുവാൻ അവിടങ്ങളിലെ പൊതുമരാമത്തു വേലയാണു് മിക്ക അവസരങ്ങളിലും ശാന്ത നൽകിപോരുന്നതു്. എന്നാൽ അത്തരം വേലകളുടെ അഭാവവും ഉള്ള ജോലികൾക്കുതന്നെ ഖരാർകാർ പുറത്തുനിന്നും കുറഞ്ഞ കൂലിക്കു തൊഴിലാളികളെ ഇറക്കുമതിചെയ്യിക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ടും നാട്ടിൻപുറവാസികൾ അനുഭവിക്കുന്ന സങ്കടങ്ങൾ ചെറുതൊന്നുമല്ല. റയിൽവെ നീട്ടൽ, ഗ്രാസ്സ്ഫൊസു മുതലായ വേലകളിൽ ഇപ്പോൾ തൊഴിൽചെയ്യുവരുന്ന തൊഴിലാളികൾ തന്നെ ഇതിനെല്ലാം ഉദാഹരണമാണു്. ൨ണ, ൧ണ, കൂലി നിരക്കുണ്ടായിരുന്ന റയിൽവെ പണികൾക്കു് കുറഞ്ഞു കുറഞ്ഞു ൪ണ, ൪ ½ണ. വരെ ആയിരിക്കുന്നുവെന്നു കാണാം. ഇതിനുകാരണം വിദേശ ഇറക്കുമതിയുടെ ഭയങ്കരതയല്ലാതെ മറ്റൊന്നുമല്ല.

ഈ രാജ്യത്തെ കൂലിനിരക്കു വിവരിക്കുന്ന യാതൊരു നിബന്ധനയും ഇല്ലാത്തതുകൊണ്ടു് സാധുക്കളായ തൊഴിലാളികൾ അനുഭവിക്കുന്ന സങ്കടാവസ്ഥകൾ ഇതിനുമുമ്പു് പലപ്പോഴും ഞാൻ ഗവൺമെൻറിന്റെ ദൃഷ്ടിയിൽ കൊണ്ടുവന്നിട്ടുണ്ടു്. യു. പി. മന്ത്രിസഭ ഈയിടെ ഒരു കൂലിനിയന്ത്രണം നടപ്പിൽ വരുത്തിയിരിക്കുന്ന വിവരം ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട ഗവൺമെൻറിനെ ഞാൻ ഓർമ്മപ്പെടുത്തുന്നു. അതുപോലെ ഗവൺമെൻറിന്റെ പിടിയിൽ ഇരിക്കുന്ന തൊഴിലുകൾക്കെങ്കിലും ഒരു ക്ലിപ്തമായ നിരക്കുവച്ചു സാധു തൊഴിലാളികളെ രക്ഷിക്കണമെന്നാണു് ഞാൻ അഭ്യർത്ഥിക്കുന്നതു്.

സർ, തൊഴിലാളികളുടെ അവകാശങ്ങളേയും അവരവർ അനുഷ്ഠിക്കേണ്ട മര്യാദയേയും പറഞ്ഞു് അങ്ങു് ചെയ്ത പ്രസ്താവനയെ ഞങ്ങൾ സസന്തോഷം സ്വാഗതം ചെയ്യുന്നു. തൊഴിലാളി പ്രവർത്തകന്മാരുടെ ഇടയിൽ അഭിപ്രായഭിന്നതകളുണ്ടെന്നു് ഞങ്ങൾ സമ്മതിക്കുന്നു. പക്ഷേ തൊഴിലാളികൾ പണിമുടക്കുചെയ്യുന്നതിനു് കാരണമാകുന്നതു് മുഴുവനുമല്ലെങ്കിലും നൂറിക്കു് ൯൫ ശതമാനവും മുതലാളിമാരുടെ നയക്കുറവുമൂലവും ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടുണ്ടാക്കുന്ന പെരുമാറ്റംമൂലവുമാകുന്നു. വെറുതെ ഒരു ഉത്സവത്തിനു് തൊഴിലാളികൾ ഒരിക്കലും പണിമുടക്കുകയില്ല. തൊഴിലാളികളുടെ ന്യായമായ അവകാശങ്ങൾക്കായിട്ടേ—മറ്റു വഴികൾ മുട്ടുമ്പോഴേ—ഈ പണിമുടക്കായുധം പ്രയോഗിക്കയുള്ളുവെന്നതും തീർച്ചയാണു്. നമ്മുടെ രാജ്യത്തു് ഇതു സംബന്ധമായ അസ്വാസ്ഥ്യം ഉണ്ടാവാതിരിപ്പാൻ വേണ്ടി കൂലിനിരക്കിനെപ്പറ്റിയുള്ള ഒരു നിയമം ഉണ്ടാക്കുന്നതു് ഏറ്റവും ഉപകാരമായിരിക്കുമെന്നുള്ളതാണു് എന്റെ അഭിപ്രായം. ഓരോ തരത്തിലുള്ള വേലകൾക്കു വേണമെങ്കിൽ പ്രത്യേകം പ്രത്യേകം നിരക്കുവെച്ചുകൊള്ളട്ടെ. അങ്ങിനെ തൊഴിൽമുടക്കിനുള്ള കാരണങ്ങളെ പരിഹരിച്ചാൽ പ്രക്ഷോഭണക്കാർക്കുപോലും ഈ ഒരസ്വാസ്ഥ്യം ഉണ്ടാക്കുവാൻ സാധിക്കാതെ വരും. ഇങ്ങിനെയുള്ള പല ഭാഗങ്ങളേയും ഇന്നത്തെ തൊഴിൽമുടക്കിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചുള്ള പല വശങ്ങളേയും അന്വേഷിച്ചു് ഗവൺമെൻറു് ഒരു പരിഹാരമാർഗ്ഗം ഉണ്ടാക്കണമെന്ന അപേക്ഷയോടുകൂടി എന്റെ പ്രസംഗം അവസാനിപ്പിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan : Mr. President, Sir, at the outset I congratulate the Deputy President on behalf of the State Congress Party. In the absence of the Leader I have to congratulate you. I hope the Deputy President will maintain the high traditions of the House and as a custodian of the rights of this House will discharge the duties entrusted to him to the

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entire satisfaction of all the members. With these words, I begin my budget speech.

Sir, this is the occasion the non-official members of the House have got year after year to criticise the general principles of the budget and to review the activities of the several departments of the Government. Before criticising the general principles of the budget, I wish to say a few words on the activities of the Government during the year under review. The most outstanding event of the current year is the inauguration of constitutional reforms in the State. Enough has been said inside the House and outside about this subject offering felicitations to His Highness the Maharaja for this magnificent gift and also congratulating the Diwan, Sir R. K. Shanmukham Chetty, for the heroic part he has played. Ever since the year 1100, when the first Legislative Council was inaugurated, the year under review is the most memorable in the history of Cochin. We have to-day the fifth Legislative Council constituted on a very liberal franchise. That is all very good. But the only defect in the whole franchise scheme is the formation of special communal electorates for the Ezhuvas and the Latin Christians. As a result of this new arrangement, Ezhuvas and Latin Christians have no right of vote in the general constituency. These two powerful communities holding very advanced views on social, economic and political life of the day are not able according to the present arrangement to exercise any sort of influence on the candidates standing in the general constituencies. The fight in all the general constituencies had been a fight between one Christian candidate and another Christian candidate or one Christian candidate and a Caste Hindu candidate or one Caste Hindu candidate and another Caste Hindu candidate. I am here concerned only with the fight between a Caste Hindu candidate and a Christian candidate. There were three such instances, viz., at Narakkal, Kattur and Anthikad. In all these places the Christian candidates had been defeated.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan: Do you want the Ezhuvas also to be defeated? (*Laughter*).

Mr. A. V. Moothedan: There was then the fight at Mulakunnathukavu. There the fight, was between an Ezhuthassan who belonged to the politically backward communities and a Caste Hindu. Here also the politically backward Ezhuthassan was defeated. The cause of these four defeats sustained by the members belonging to the politically backward communities is greatly due to the absence of the Ezhuvas and Latin Christian voters. Another dangerous result of the present franchise scheme is that the Caste Hindu candidates returned from these general

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constituencies are, in the very nature of things, less inclined to support the claims of politically backward communities, for example the Ezhuvas, Muslims, Catholics, etc.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar: Question.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan: You may question and you may answer. The policy of the Cochin Congress Party which does not contain a single member of the Scheduled Castes—namely, Ezhuvas and Latin Christians, will clearly show to the whole world in a few months how far the Caste Hindus who guide the destinies of the Cochin Congress Party are going to give concessions to backward communities. The very fact that the Cochin Congress refused to support the candidature for the Deputy Presidentship of Mr. C. R. Iyyunni, a veteran parliamentarian, belonging to the Catholic community will bear eloquent testimony to the fact that the Caste Hindus who are returned to the Council on the new franchise scheme are hostile to the just claims of the Catholics, etc.

Dr. A. R. Menon: Sir, on a point of order. I want to repudiate emphatically that allegation. It is not a fact.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan: You can repudiate.

Dr. A. R. Menon: When an hon'ble member makes a wrong statement, it is only a matter of courtesy on his part when the leader of the party who is responsible for the conduct of that party corrects him, to withdraw that statement.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar: I must also enter my emphatic protest.

Dr. A. R. Menon: When a statement is made and when I correct that statement that it is not a fact, it is his duty not only duty, but it is a matter of dignity, to withdraw that allegation, so that, we may carry on discussion in this House in a peaceful, legitimate and constitutional manner.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim: But a mere statement of a member is not sufficient.

Dr. A. R. Menon: No, Sir.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim: Yes, Sir.

Dr. A. R. Menon: In the capacity of the leader of the party I said.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan: I may withdraw that portion although I am convinced I am not wrong.

Mr. Deputy President: When you withdraw a statement you must do it without any reservations.

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Mr. A. V. Moothedan: Long before the elections, I have drawn the pointed attention of the Government to this defect of the franchise scheme by means of an adjournment motion in this very House. But the Government summarily rejected my suggestions. However I again take this opportunity to request the Government that for the sake of communal unity and communal friendship, they should take early steps to put an end to this pernicious system of special communal electorate. In any scheme of franchise there should be opportunities for the several communities to help each other by their votes. I don't wish to see the Ezhuvas and the Latin Christians to be shut up in cages, so as not to adversely affect the over-representation of the Caste Hindus.

My second observation in this connection while I am reviewing the activities of the Government during the current year, is that the representation given to Romo-Syrians in the higher services has become very meagre. Though the Romo-Syrians form the biggest section of the Christians and though they number nearly two lakhs, next year after the retirement of Mr. V. D. Ouseph there will not be a single head of the department from that community. For this deplorable condition of the community I cannot throw the whole blame on the Diwan because in my heart of hearts I am satisfied that the Diwan is honestly trying his best to meet the claims and counter-claims of the several communities. But the pity is that the Caste Hindus want for themselves every appointment regardless the claims of other communities. Quite recently there arose four permanent vacancies by the retirement of Mr. V. D. Ouseph and by the appointment of three Municipal Commissioners Did any Romo-Syrian or for that matter any Christian from outside the service get any appointment in the series of appointments made as a result of these four permanent vacancies. I hope the Government will set right these matters the coming year.

Now coming to the representation of the Romo-Syrians in the Legislative Council, here again I must submit that our representation is totally inadequate. In the coming years our Legislative Council is going to exercise considerable influence on the administrative policy and programme of the Government and it is only just and reasonable that our community also should have proper representation in the Council so as to safeguard the vital interests of our community. It is stated in the Franchise Committee Report and the Government Proceedings connected therewith, that the delimitation of constituencies is effected in such a way that all communities may get proper representation in the Legislative Council. The principle

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adopted by the Franchise Committee for fixing the number of seats for each community is the population of the community and its voting strength. This principle has been accepted by the Government as the correct principle and accordingly we are entitled to get at least eight or nine seats in the general constituencies. But how many seats do we get now? Only four excluding the member returned by the Trichur Ladies' constituency, which is not a general constituency. When the Franchise Committee Report was published, I made representations to the Government that the Romo-Syrians would not be able to get proper representation by the proposed Franchise arrangements and that we won't get more than four seats. My expectations have come true. That we are entitled to get at least eight seats, is accepted by even the Diwan Peishkar, who was a member of the Franchise Committee. There is an interesting anecdote connected with this. As soon as the Franchise Committee Report was published, in Vrischigam this year, I happened to meet the Diwan Peishkar at Trichur while we were having our morning walks. Then we began to talk about the recommendations of the Committee and I complained that the Committee had been rather unfair to the Romo-Syrians, in that according to the Franchise Scheme we don't get more than four seats. But the Diwan Peishkar argued that we will get more than eight seats and he laid a bet. If the Romo-Syrians failed to secure eight seats at the ensuing elections he would give me a dinner and if we secured eight seats I should give him a dinner. Now you see who has to give the dinner. Therefore what I submit is that Franchise Scheme requires modifications at once and the Government would take steps in that direction early next year.

Now I come to the second part of the speech which is very much shorter than the first part. Regarding the general principles of the budget, I have not much to say by way of adverse criticisms. The Diwan President's opening speech and the Finance Member's speech introducing the budget have made the budgettary position of the State very clear to all. The provision in the budget for giving grant to the aided school teachers, who are leading almost a life of semi-starvation and the liberal provision in the budget for rural reconstruction will be welcomed with joy throughout the State. But at the same time I note with regret that the grant given to the Panchayat Department is gradually declining.

In the year 1111 it was 2·18 lakhs. In the year 1112 it was 2·14 lakhs. In the year 1113 it was 2·13 lakhs. In the year 1114 it was 1·97 lakhs. This feature of the budget will be discomforting

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particularly to people living in the country side who form roughly 85 per cent of the population of the State.

I have noted with extreme satisfaction certain proposals of the Government for retrenchment. For example, arrangements for printing our Stamps in India, thereby affecting a saving of half a lakh of rupees to the exchequer. But I am extremely sorry to note that there is not any provision in the budget for reducing the salaries of our highly paid officers. This Council has from time to time made various recommendations for salary cuts; but the Government have not paid any heed to these recommendations. I am afraid that some of the proposals for retrenchment will seriously affect the subordinate service. By retrenching a clerk there, or a peon here, a P. 3 teacher there, or a Parvathekaran here, chances of employment for many young men will be seriously affected and the savings negligible. In this connection I wish to draw the attention of the House to one passage in the Finance Member's explanatory Memorandum, page 17:

"As a measure of retrenchment the villages of Pothundi and Vallanghy in the Chittur Taluk were amalgamated abolishing the posts of a Parvathiam and Masapidi."

By effecting a cut of 1/4 per cent in the salaries of the 1st grade officers there would have been more savings without causing any suffering, blocking the chances for appointment of the young unemployed. I won't congratulate any Government for effecting a saving by retrenching the number of low paid officers. That would only swell the ranks of the unemployed.

Before I conclude I wish to say one word about the Stoneware Factory at Chalakkudi. The picture given by the Diwan President in his opening speech about the prospects of this factory is very gloomy indeed. It is no doubt true that the Government have invested about 2½ lakhs of rupees in this factory. But when you are calculating the profit and loss from this concern one important factor is over-looked. Nearly half the buildings and machinery remain unused now. For carrying on the industry at the present scale there is absolutely no necessity for investing 2½ lakhs of rupees. With fifty thousand rupees we can carry on this industry on the same scale as at present. If you take into consideration all the capital thus unnecessarily sunk in this industry and then say it is not self-supporting or remunerative, it is not proper. I am also sorry to note from the Diwan President's speech that the proposals for the opening of the Chalakkudi-Anamallais Road, have been dropped for the time-being. This road will be of all Cochin importance and will greatly increase the trade of the Cochin Harbour. Therefore, I earnestly hope that the Diwan would reconsider the subject and

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would not leave any stone unturned for executing this scheme. With these few words, I commend my observations to the favourable consideration of the Government.

Mr. V. N. Damodaran Nambiar: Mr. President, Sir, the budget estimate for the year 1114 which is under the consideration of this House, anticipates a surplus of Rs. 3·4 lakhs. This is, no doubt, an encouraging forecast and the Government deserves to be congratulated for having adjusted their probable income and expenditure in such a way as to leave a margin of over Rs. 3 lakhs which is safe enough in the opinion of our Diwan. But my fear is—and I believe, most of the hon'ble members of this House will be sharing with me in this fear—that the Government may not be able to maintain this safe margin at the time the revised estimates of 1114 are prepared. Even though to an outsider our budget of 1114 may appear to be safely balanced, we, Sir, who had the experience of witnessing the financial operations of the State for the last 3 or 4 years have every reason to fear that we may have to revise these forecasted figures towards the end of the year considerably to our disadvantage. I am fortified in this conclusion by the actual figures obtainable from the budget estimates of the last three years. In all these years we had the unique misfortune of beginning with perfect optimism and ending with equally perfect disillusionment. The surpluses have turned out consistently to be deficits and that in spite of our being able to realise more income than was anticipated in certain years. As an example, I shall take this year's figures to show the extent to which we err in forecasting our estimates. In our budget estimates of 1113 we had forecasted a surplus of 1·81 lakhs. In the course of the year we were able to realise Rs. 6·64 lakhs in excess of our estimated figures. In spite of this excess realisation the revised estimates disclose a deficit of Rs. 2·71 lakhs. The error in our calculation, therefore, comes to Rs. 9·35 lakhs.

The budget estimate of every Government, as some big financier has said, should constitute a perfect cycle of operations. We should begin the preparation of our estimates by studying the actual requirements of the people for the period in question and obtaining facts and figures in connection with the expenditure necessary to meet these requirements. We should further see that our estimates are carried out in accordance with our forecast. The actual programme of operations is as important, if not more, than the work of preparation.

From a perusal of our budget estimates for the last few years we can see that our Government do not devote as much attention to the actual requirements of the people as they ought

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to do in preparing the estimates. The basis of allotting monies for different items for any particular year appears to be the actual amount spent for such items in the previous year. This kind of procedure appears to me to be wrong on principle. In setting apart amounts for different heads of expenditure we should be guided by actual facts and figures concerning the requirements of the people. In certain advanced states of America separate departments are maintained to collect such facts and figures and prepare their budget estimates. We, on the other hand, do not only take any care to obtain the necessary information; but even such information that comes in our way in the course of our administration is not taken note of. I shall make myself more clear by detailing some of the pressing needs of the people that remain unsatisfied to this day in spite of repeated demands for the past several years. In doing so I shall confine myself to my own constituency.

1. The necessity of supplying pure drinking water to the people of Azhikkal is a matter which has been brought to the notice of the Government on the floor of this House many a time before. I do not think it necessary on my part to enlighten the hon'ble members on the severity of the hardships the people of this locality suffer on account of the apathy of the Government in this matter. Nobody can deny the fact that the supply of this primary want forms part of the functions of any civilised Government worth the name. How will the Government justify the collection of a pie by way of tax from these people, I ask, so long as they do not redress this legitimate grievance of theirs. The other day, the Government were pleased to reply to a question put by the hon'ble member for Latin Christians (Ernakulam) that they have not taken any steps to redress this grievance and that it is not possible for them to do so in the near future, the reason being that with the existing pipe-line it is not possible to supply water to the littoral tracts. I am really surprised at this attitude of the Government which thinks it proper to agree to supply one lakh of gallons of fresh water per day to the British Cochin Municipality with the existing pipeline while they have not taken any steps to supply water to a section of His Highness' subjects who have been repeatedly crying for the same for the past several years. Within the bounds of parliamentary language, I can only say that this attitude does not reflect well on the Government. Coming to the point, if the Government had taken care to prepare their estimates of expenditure in view of the actual requirements of the people, I say, such a demand would not have remained unsatisfied till now. For, can anybody deny the fact that the supply of

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drinking water to a people to whom Nature has denied it, the same deserves to top any list of the actual requirements of the people?

2. The people of Trippunittura had been demanding the opening of a canal connecting the Erur River with the backwater for the last several years. The question was discussed on the floor of this House about 5 years ago and I understand the Government were pleased to allot some amount for the purpose in their budget estimates for the last year or the year before. About 2500 acres of paddy fields near and about Irimpanam are affected by floods consistently for the last few years. During the monsoon the water that collects in these fields does not find an easy outlet as it has to pass a circuitous way to the backwaters. When the demand was put forward it was simply a proposition of relieving the annual floods and the consequent failure of crops that the ryots in this locality suffered. It is not a question of spending some money for the development of agriculture, but a question of spending money for the preservation of the existing resources of the ryots. Now that the Cochin Harbour has become a *fait accompli* the opening of this canal has assumed a commercial importance as well. In spite of all these circumstances, the amount that was once allotted was allowed to lapse and no further steps have till now been taken to bring this scheme into operation. To what else can we ascribe this neglect except the fact that the Gevernment do not care to meet the actual requirements of the people when they prepare their estimates of expenditure.

About 80 per cent of the people of the State live on agriculture. Over 12 lakhs of rupees are collected by way of land-tax and yet, what does the Government spend for the sake of protecting and safeguarding this major industry in the State? Rs. 1·59 lakhs or about 1½ per cent of the State's Revenue are allotted to the agricultural department out of which a considerable portion is to be spent on establishment charges and the maintenance of two model farms, one at Ollukkara and another at Vyttila. I do not for one moment contend that these model farms are not turning out any useful work at all. But, what I want to point out to the hon'ble members is the fact that a disproportionately large amount allotted for the department is at present spent on purposes which do not directly benefit the ryots. More of our income ought to be set apart for developing this major industry in the State. A good proportion of the available funds ought to be spent on purposes which directly benefit the ryots—such as the establishment in all villages of more seed depots, model farms where improved methods of cultivation

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should be demonstrated. Co-operative Societies for the purpose of trying the system of collective farming, and last but not least important, undertaking necessary works of irrigation in order to preserve the existing agricultural resources of the State.

The usual answer to all these demands from the people is that no funds are available for meeting them. I may at once say that that is not a valid answer at all. Unlike private individuals who have perforce to adjust their expenditure to their more or less limited income, Government has to adjust its income to its expenditure. A Finance Member's duty does not consist in distributing the available income among the various departments in the State. His duty is to find out the requirements of the various departments of the Government and then to devise ways and means of financing them with the least possible burden to the tax-payer.

I am very glad that a sum of Rs. 20,000 has been set apart for rural development to be utilised according to the discretion of the new Minister. That is a new and agreeable feature in our budget for the coming year. You, Sir, in your opening speech referred to the importance of developing cottage industries in the State and expressed the hope that the new Minister who is put in charge of this Department would be in a position to evolve the necessary schemes for the same. I see from the budget that only a paltry sum of Rs. 200 is allotted for subsidising cottage industries in the State. I fail to understand how many of such industries can be served by such subsidies in the development of such industries. I however hope that the Minister will, in course of time, prevail upon the Government to make more liberal allotments for this purpose.

Mr. K. Kochukunhan Kaimal: Mr. President, Sir, before entering upon a discussion of the Budget, I should like to express the thanks and felicitations on behalf of the people of my constituency and myself for the very gracious reforms granted by His Highness the Maharaja. It is also our duty to thank the Diwan President in having advised the Maharaja to inaugurate the reforms. In introducing these reforms His Highness the Maharaja had the good wishes of the people and His Highness has shown a real wish that his subjects should be allowed to participate in the administration of certain departments with which the people are vitally connected. It is not enough that we have got these reforms. These reforms, I do not say, are complete but it is only the first instalment of responsible government. It is in the

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working of these reformations that we have to satisfy His Highness the Maharaja and His Highness' Government that we are in a position to carry on the administration of these departments entrusted to the care of the Minister. This can be done not by the Minister himself but he should have the support of his party and it is also my earnest desire that in working out these reforms the members sitting on the opposite side will also have great pleasure in bringing them into a successful completion so that we may hereafter press our claims for grant of further reforms. The goal that is sought to be achieved by both parties is the same. Probably there may be difference so far as the programme of the two parties is concerned so that the object being the amelioration and the betterment of the economic condition of the poor people in the villages, the Cochin State Congress Party also will, I dare say, render all help in carrying out the measures of reform. It should not be understood that the two parties are fighting for a particular seat or a particular appointment or other favours. But all of us are now actuated by one predominent motive, viz., the amelioration of the poor people in the villages. I do not wish to dilate more on this matter.

So far as the Budget for the year 1114 is concerned it has been placed before the Council by the Hon'ble Finance Member and in introducing the same, he has divided it into two parts, namely, the ordinary revenue side of the Budget, both under receipts and expenditure, and capital outlay, investments, etc., and after a careful review of the two parts, he sums up by saying that in the course of the last two decades the State has advanced a good deal financially, both in the extent and volume in its monetary resources. He has also referred to the various features of the State's finances. In the discussion regarding the ordinary receipts and expenses of the year he has taken into account the actuals of 1112, the budgetted and revised estimate of 1113 and the budget estimate for 1114 and he comes to the conclusion that there will be a surplus of 3·40 lakhs. This surplus is apparently encouraging. But looking to the actuals of 1112 and the revised budget of 1113 till now, we are not at all satisfied that the result arrived at by the Finance Member will be actually reached. There are various reasons for the same. The year 1112 closed with a deficit of 1·16 though it was expected to close with a surplus. Similar is the case with 1113. As against a surplus of 1·81 as budgetted, the revised estimate till now has disclosed a deficit of 2·71 lakhs. The experience of these two years tends to justify my statement that the surplus budget of 1114 is likely to close on the other hand in a deficit one. Apart

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from the experience of the years 1112, 1113 there is yet another ground which goes to support my above conclusion and I am fortified in this conclusion by some of the observations made by the Diwan President in paragraphs 3 and 4 of his opening speech. In paragraph 3 he says, that as against a budget estimate of 20 lakhs under customs there was a receipt of 13·47 lakhs only, thus leaving a shortage of 6·53 lakhs under this one item alone. After discussing the cause for this shortage he says that such cause, namely, the disappearance of the import of foreign sugar in the port of Cochin should now be taken as a permanent and normal feature and not merely a temporary one. Bearing this fact in mind and in view of probable increase in the customs on account of the import of mineral oil from Burma, 23½ lakhs has been budgetted and the excess over 13½ i. e., merely 10 lakhs is estimated to be the customs duty of the share of the State, in respect of 53 lakhs collected as customs duty on mineral oils. The Diwan President says, but for the extraneous circumstance we would have been faced with a serious problem in balancing our Budget and that but for the duty on the oils we would have had to face the problem of making good, a deficit of 6½ lakhs per year. This is a very serious state of things, because as against 20 lakhs the State was able to collect only 13½ lakhs. This shortage has now become permanent and not a temporary one, so that other resources have to be tapped at least to that extent in order to balance the budget. The deficit of nearly 10 lakhs is so great that it may not be possible for anybody to say that the whole amount or even an approximate amount should be realised in the course of the year. The Diwan President sums up by saying that we may now safely assume that our share of the customs revenue from the next year onwards will not be below 23½ lakhs per year. From the above discussion it will be seen, that we will have to realise 10 lakhs from the duty on mineral oil alone. It is surprising that no light has been thrown as to the probability of realising this enormous amount or one approaching the same. It is not even hinted in the address as to the proportion of the gross receipts to which the State would be entitled. Further, we are at a loss to know whether this revenue is of a permanent character or is likely to be varied for extraneous causes. Assuming the worse happens, we are forced to tap other sources to make up this large deficiency. In view of the ordinary customs revenue not exceeding 13½ lakhs and in view of the flexible nature of the so called increase of 10 lakhs on account of the duty on mineral oil, the State will be forced to augment its receipts by resorting to other incomes of a permanent character. In order to balance budget on account of the probable deficit with reference to this 10 lakhs, the State may

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also have to resort to strict economy and retrenchment in the matter of expenditure in the merely spending departments.

Though I don't propose to touch upon the various Heads of Receipts for 1113 I cannot help making some reference to the work of the Income-tax Department which redowns to its credit. Under that Head while the State budgetted for only 3·55 lakhs it is gratifying to note that the State expects to realise 6·6 lakhs during the current year. This increase which is almost double, in the words of the Diwan President, is largely due to the stricter application of the Income-tax law and to certain changes in the mode of Assessment. The credit to this partly goes to the Officers in charge of the Department. This cannot be left unnoticed.

Another head of receipt is on account of the sale of 337 acres of reclaimed area. This sort of receipt in order to balance the budget, cannot be said to be a satisfactory one. It is stated that the ownership of this large area was in doubt and now it is assigned on a royalty of 3·37 lakhs. There is another transaction which is now being contemplated. It is the sale of 150 acres more to the Harbour Authorities. There also we expect to get not more than Rs. 1,500 per acre. It is said that in the Ernakulam fore-shore, land was sold at Rs. 1,000 per cent and it cannot be said to be a prudent transaction because the sale of this area was effected so as to adversely affect the interests of the State. The attempt to balance the budget by resorting to the sale of properties cannot be said to be a prudent policy. All the State expenditure has to be met not by the piece-meal sale of land but by the income derived from the land and from other sources.

Then I have to make one more observation with regard to the railway. As the hon'ble member for Trichur North remarked that the interest now realised on account of the permanent commitments on railway come to about 4·77 lakhs. It is seen from the budget that 84·5 lakhs have already been spent for the conversion of the broadgauge and also for the extension of the railway to Venduruthy. If my information is correct about Rs. 60 to 70 lakhs have been spent on metre-gauge line so that about 150 lakhs must have been spent for the construction of the railway. The Finance Member has taken into account only 119·4 lakhs as the capital outlay on account of the construction of the railways, after making allowance for depreciation charges. The interest has to be calculated on the entire outlay and without including depreciation charges in the matter of expenditure.

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Mr. President: The hon'ble member's time is up.

Mr. K. Kochukunhan Kaimal: Sir, I expect more liberal provision should be made with regard to the expenditures in connection with the Departments that are entrusted to the care of the Minister. I am sorry I could not complete my speech.

Mr. B. M. Peter: പ്രസിഡണ്ടു് സർ, ഫ ഫ നു-ലെ ബഡ്ജറു് പ്രകാരം ഫ,വ്യ ഫ,ം ം ം ക. മിച്ചമുണ്ടാകുമെന്നു് പ്രതീക്ഷിച്ചു സന്തോഷിച്ചിരുന്ന നാം ഇപ്പോൾ നമ്മുടെ മുമ്പാകെ കൊണ്ടുവരപ്പെട്ട കണക്കുകൊണ്ടു് ഈ കൊല്ലാവസാനത്തിൽ ഫ,ം ഫ,ം ം ം ക. നഷ്ടം വരുമെന്നു കാണുന്നതു് ഏറ്റം സങ്കടകരമായിട്ടുള്ള ഒന്നാണു്. നമ്മുടെ ഇക്കൊല്ലത്തെ വരവിനത്തിൽ നമ്മൾ ആശിച്ചിരുന്നതിൽ ഫ,ൻ നു,ം ം ം ക. കുറവു സംഭവിച്ചു എന്നു കേൾക്കുന്നതു് പക്ഷെ ക്ഷമിക്കത്തക്കതായിരിക്കാം. എന്നാൽ അതേ സമയത്തു തന്നെ ചിലവിനത്തിൽ ബഡ്ജറു് എസ്റ്റിമേറിനും പുറമെ ഫ,ഭ ം,ന ം ം ക. അധിക ചിലവുചെയ്യപ്പോയിട്ടുള്ളതാണു് കൂടുതൽ ആപല്ക്കരമായിട്ടുള്ളതു്. രാജ്യം സാമ്പത്തികാധഃപതനംമൂലം ഉഴലുന്നു. കൃഷിക്കാരാണെങ്കിൽ ഉല്പന്നങ്ങൾക്കു വിലകിട്ടാതെ സങ്കടപ്പെടുന്നു. വേലക്കാർക്കു വേലയും കൂലിയുമില്ലാതെ പട്ടിണികിടക്കുന്നു. ഈ ഘട്ടത്തിൽ ചിലവുചെയ്യാൻ തീരുമാനിച്ചതിലും ഇത്ര ഭീമമായ ഒരു തുക കൂടുതൽ ചിലവുചെയ്യപ്പോന്നു എന്ന സംഗതി സാധുജനങ്ങളുടെ പ്രതിനിധികളായ ഞങ്ങൾ ഏതു തരത്തിലാണു വീക്ഷിക്കേണ്ടതു്. ഏതു വിധത്തിലാണു ഞങ്ങൾ നിങ്ങളോടു നന്ദിപറയേണ്ടതു് എന്നു മനസ്സിലാകുന്നില്ല. എന്നാൽ ഈ വരുത്തിയിരിക്കുന്ന അധിക ചിലവു സാധുജനസംരക്ഷണത്തിനോ കാർഷികാശ്വാസത്തിനോ വേണ്ടി മാത്രമായിരുന്നെങ്കിൽ നമുക്കത്ര നിരാശപ്പെടേണ്ടതില്ലായിരുന്നു. ഈ അവസരത്തിൽ നമ്മുടെ പഴയ ചരിത്രത്തെപ്പറ്റി ഒരു സൂക്ഷ്മനിരീക്ഷണം ചെയ്യുന്നതു് അനുചിതമായിരിക്കുമെന്നു കരുതുന്നു. ഫ ഫ ം ഫ മുതൽ ഫ ഫ ഫ ഫ വരെയുള്ള വരവുചിലവു കണക്കുകൊണ്ടു് നമ്മുടെ ഇന്നത്തെ കഷ്ടസ്ഥിതിയുടെ പരമാർത്ഥം വെളിപ്പെടുന്നതായിരിക്കും. ഫ ഫ ം ഫ-ൽ ഭ ഭ,നു വ്യ,ം. ം ം ക. വരവും ന്യ ന്യ,ൻ ഫ,ം ം ം ക. ചിലവും കഴിച്ചു വ്യ,ര ഭ,ം ം ം ക. മിച്ചമുണ്ടായിരുന്ന നമുക്കു് ഇപ്പോൾ വരവുകൊണ്ടു ചിലവു നടക്കാതെ ഫ ഫ ഫ ഫ-ൽ ൻ ന്യ,ം ം ം ക. യും ഫ ഫ ഫ ഫ-ൽ ഫ,ഫ ഭ,ം,ം ം ക. യും ഫ ഫ ഫ നു-ൽ ഫ,ഭ ഫ,ം ം ം ക. യും കടം വന്നുകൂടുന്നു എന്നു് സംഗതി ഒട്ടും അഭിമാനകരമല്ല. കഴിഞ്ഞകൊല്ലത്തെ ബഡ്ജറു് സമ്മേളനാവസരത്തിൽ ഫ,ഫ ഭ,ം ം ം ക. നഷ്ടം സംഭവിച്ചതിനെപ്പറ്റി ഈ അനുദ്യോഗസ്ഥപക്ഷത്തുനിന്നും ധാരാളം മുറവിളി കൂട്ടിയതിന്റെ ഫലമായിരിക്കാം ഇപ്പോൾ ഫ,ഭ ഫ,ം ം ം ക. ആയി വല്ലിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതു്. ഫ ം ഫ മുതൽ ഫ ഫ ഫ വരെയുള്ള നമ്മുടെ ആയവ്യയ കണക്കിൽ വരവുഭാഗം പലേ മാറ്റങ്ങളും സംഭവിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടെങ്കിലും ചിലവുഭാഗം അനുക്രമം ഫ ഫ കൊല്ലംകൊണ്ടു ന്യ ന്യ,ൻ ഫ,ം ം ം ക. യിൽ നിന്നു ഫ,ം ഫ,ഫ ഭ,ം ം ം ക. യിൽ എത്തിച്ചേർന്നിട്ടുള്ളതിനെപ്പറ്റിയാണു് നമ്മൾ കൂടുതൽ ഭയപ്പെടേണ്ടതു്. ഒരു കൊല്ലത്തിൽ പ്രത്യേകസംഗതിവശാൽ അധികച്ചിലവിനിടവന്നിരുന്നെങ്കിൽ നമുക്കിത്ര ഭയപ്പെടേണ്ടതില്ലായിരുന്നു. പ്രത്യേക ചിലവില്ലാത്ത അവസരങ്ങളിലെങ്കിലും പഴയപടിയെ അവലംബിച്ചുകൊള്ളുമെന്നുസമാധാനിക്കാമായിരുന്നു. പക്ഷെ അതിനിവിടെ വഴി കാണുന്നില്ല. ആയതുകൊണ്ടു ഏതു തരത്തിലെങ്കിലും മോടിക്കും ആഡംബരത്തിനുമായി മാത്രം ചിലവഴി

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വരുന്ന തുകകളെ നിയന്ത്രിക്കേണ്ടതു് ഈ വിഷമഘട്ടത്തിലെങ്കിലും അത്യാവശ്യംതന്നെ. ൧൯൩൪-ൽ ചിലവു കഴിച്ചു നോക്കുമ്പോൾ ൪൦ ക. മിച്ചമുണ്ടാകുമെന്നു കാണുന്നതു ആശ്വാസജനകംതന്നെയാണെങ്കിലും ഉല്പന്നങ്ങളുടെ വിലക്കുറവിനാൽ നട്ടംതിരിയുന്ന സാധു കർഷകന്മാക്കു ന്യായമായ എന്തെങ്കിലും കൊടുചെയ്തുകൊണ്ടാണു് മിച്ചമുണ്ടാക്കിയിരുന്നെങ്കിൽ ഏറ്റവും അഭിനന്ദനീയംതന്നെ ആയിരുന്നേനേ. ഇതേപ്പറ്റി ഞാൻ ഉപക്ഷേപം കൊടുത്തിട്ടുള്ളതിനാൽ പിന്നീടു വിശദീകരിക്കാമെന്നു കരുതുന്നു. കഴിഞ്ഞകൊല്ലങ്ങളിൽ സംഭവിച്ചതുപോലെ ചിലവിനത്തിൽ ബഡ്ജറ്റിൽ ഇപ്പോൾ കൊള്ളിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതിനുംപുറമെ നമ്മുടെ ആഡംബരങ്ങൾക്കായി ഒരു പൈ പോലും കൂടുതൽ ചിലവുചെയ്യപോകരുതേ എന്ന ഒരഭ്യർത്ഥന മാത്രമേ എനിക്കുള്ളൂ.

സർ, നമ്മുടെ രാജ്യത്തെ ബാധിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള വ്യവസായമാന്ദ്യത്തെപ്പറ്റിയാണു് എനിക്കിനി രണ്ടാമതായി പറവാനുള്ളതു്. ഒരു രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ ഐശ്വര്യത്തെ പ്രധാനമായിക്കുറിക്കുന്നതു് ആ രാജ്യത്തുനിന്നുള്ളകയറ്റുമതിയെ അടിസ്ഥാനപ്പെടുത്തിയാണു്. ൧൯൨൯ മുതൽ ൧൯൩൫ വരെ നമ്മുടെ രാജ്യത്തെ കയറ്റുമതി ഇറക്കുമതിയേക്കാൾ ഓരോ കൊല്ലത്തിലും വർദ്ധിച്ചിരുന്നതായും വിദേശങ്ങളിൽനിന്നു ധാരാളം പണം ഇവിടെ വർഷിച്ചിരുന്നതായും കൊച്ചി പോർട്ടിൽ നിന്നുള്ള കയറ്റുമതിക്കു കണക്കുകൊണ്ടു നമുക്കു ബോദ്ധ്യപ്പെടുന്നതാണു്. എന്നാൽ അതേപടിതന്നെ ൧൯൩൬ മുതൽ ൧൯൩൯ വരേയുള്ള കണക്കുകൾ പരിശോധിക്കുന്നതായാൽ, നാം കൊല്ലംപ്രതി അധഃപതിച്ചു അനവധി പണം വിദേശങ്ങൾക്കു കൊടുത്തുപോരുന്നതായും അറിയാവുന്നതാണു്. ൧൯൩൬ മുതൽ കൊച്ചി പോർട്ടിൽനിന്നു ൫,൮൪,൪൯,൫൦൦ രൂ. വിലക്കുള്ള ചരക്കു വിദേശങ്ങളിലേക്കു കയറ്റുകയും അവിടെനിന്നു ൪,൭൮,൭൯,൧൦൦ രൂ. യുടെ ചരക്കു വരുത്തുകയും ചെയ്തതായാൽ ൪൬,൯൫,൫൭൭ രൂ. അന്യരാജ്യക്കാരുടേതു് നമുക്കു ലഭിക്കുകയും എന്നാൽ ഇപ്പോൾ, അതായതു് ൧൯൩൯-ൽ കയറ്റുമതി ൩,൫൩,൦൪,൭൭൭ രൂ. യും ഇറക്കു് ൨,൭൫,൭൦,൦൦൦ രൂ. യും ആയി വ്യത്യാസപ്പെടുകയാൽ ൧,൩൭,൩൪,൭൭൭ രൂ. നാം വിദേശികൾക്കു കൊടുക്കുകയുമാണു് ചെയ്തിരിക്കുന്നതു്. ഈ വ്യത്യാസം ഒന്നുമാത്രമാണു് നമ്മുടെ അന്നത്തെ ഐശ്വര്യത്തിനും ഇന്നത്തെ അധഃപതനത്തിനും നിദാനമായിരിക്കുന്നതു്. അയൽപോർട്ടുകളിലെ കണക്കുമായി ഇതിനെ താരതമ്യപ്പെടുത്തുന്നതായാൽ നമ്മുടെ ശോചനീയാവസ്ഥ കൂടുതൽ വെളിപ്പെടുന്നതാണു്. ൧൯൩൯-ൽ കോഴിക്കോട്ടു നിന്നു ൩,൫൩,൩൫,൩൭൭ രൂ. യുടെ ചരക്കു കയറ്റുകയും ൨,൭൫,൭൮,൮൦൦ രൂ. യുടെ ചരക്കു ഇറക്കുകയും ചെയ്തതായാൽ ൯,൮൭,൫൦,൫൦൦ രൂ. തൊക്കം അവർ അന്യരാജ്യങ്ങളിൽ നിന്നു വാങ്ങിക്കയുണ്ടായി. അതേ കൊല്ലത്തിൽതന്നെ ആലപ്പുഴയിൽ നിന്നു കയറ്റുമതിയിൽ ഇറക്കുമതികഴിച്ചു ൧,൮൭,൩൫,൩൫൭ രൂ. അന്യരാജ്യങ്ങളിൽ നിന്നു് അവർക്കും വാങ്ങി. അയൽരാജ്യങ്ങൾപോലും ഈ നിലയിൽ വാണിജ്യപരമായും വ്യവസായപരമായും അഭിവൃദ്ധിപ്പെട്ടുവരുന്നതിനുപരം നാം വർഷംപ്രതിയും അധഃപതിച്ചുമാണു വരുന്നതു്. ഇതിനുള്ള ഹേതുക്കളെന്തെന്നു ഒരു കുലങ്കഷ പരിശോധന നടത്തേണ്ട സമയം ഏറ്റവും അതിക്രമിച്ചിരിക്കയാണു്. ൧൯൩൬ മുതൽ ൧൯൩൯ വരെയുള്ള ൪ കൊല്ലത്തെ കണക്കു പരിശോധിക്കുന്നതായാൽ കൊച്ചി കയറ്റുമതിയിൽ ൨൫%-ം ആലപ്പുഴ ൨൦%-ം കാലിക്കറ്റ് ൪൦ %-ം വർദ്ധിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതായി കാണാം. അപ്പോൾ നമ്മുടെ പരിഷ്കൃത ഹാർബർകൊണ്ടു നാം വിചാരിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ഗുണം ഇതേവരെ സിദ്ധിച്ചിട്ടില്ല എന്നു കാണപ്പെടുന്നതാണു്. ഹാർബർ പരിഷ്കരിച്ചതുകൊണ്ടുമാത്രം രാജ്യത്തിനോ, ഗവൺമെന്റിനോ, ജനങ്ങൾക്കോ ഗുണം സിദ്ധിക്കുന്നതല്ല. ഹാർ

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ബർ മീഖേന കയറ്റുമതി ചെയ്യേണ്ട സാധനങ്ങൾ റയിൽവെയുടെ മാത്രമേ ആശ്രിച്ച ഫലം ഉണ്ടാകയുള്ളൂ. ഇതിനുദാഹരണമായി നമ്മുടെ രാജ്യത്തെ പ്രധാന വ്യവസായമായ കയർ ഇൻഡസ്ട്രിയെപറ്റി മാത്രം ഞാൻ ഇവിടെ എടുത്തുപറഞ്ഞുകൊള്ളട്ടെ. കയറുൽപ്പന്നത്തിൽ ചായ എന്നൊരിനം കഴിച്ചാൽ കൊച്ചി പോർട്ടിൽ നിന്നുള്ള പ്രധാന കയറുൽപ്പന്നം കയറാണ്. ഇതാണ് നമ്മുടെ രാജ്യത്തെ കുടിൽ വ്യവസായവും. ഈ വ്യവസായംകൊണ്ടാണ് അനവധി സാധുജനങ്ങൾ നമ്മുടെ രാജ്യത്തു് ഉപജീവനം കഴിച്ചുകൂട്ടുന്നതു്. ഗവൺമെൻറിന്റെ പിന്തുണയോ സഹായമോ കൂടാതെതന്നെ വളർന്നുവന്നിട്ടുള്ള ഒരു വ്യവസായവും ഇതുതന്നെയാണ്. എന്നാൽ ഇപ്പോൾ ഇതരഗവൺമെൻറുകൾ അവരവരുടെ രാജ്യത്തെ വ്യവസായ വർദ്ധനവിനു വേണ്ടി മുതിരുന്ന ഈ കാലഘട്ടത്തിൽ ഞങ്ങൾക്കും ഗവൺമെൻറിനെ സമീപിക്കാതേയും ഞങ്ങളുടെ ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ സ്ഥിതിഗതികളെ പറഞ്ഞു മനസ്സിലാക്കാതേയും സഹായം അഭ്യർത്ഥിക്കാതേയും നിവൃത്തിയില്ല. കൊച്ചിയിലും അതിനടുത്ത പ്രദേശങ്ങളിലുമായി പണിചെയ്യിച്ചിരുന്ന അനവധി കയറുവ്യവസായശാലകൾ പൂട്ടപ്പെടുകയും അവർ ഇവിടെ നിന്നും പണി നിറുത്തൽചെയ്തു് അടുത്ത തിരുവിതാംകൂർ സംസ്ഥാനത്തു് പുതിയ വ്യവസായ ശാലകൾ സ്ഥാപിച്ചു് ഇവിടെ നടത്തിയിരുന്ന പണി അവിടെ തുടർന്നുവരികയും ചെയ്യുന്നു. ഈ ഫാക്ടറികളിൽ പണിചെയ്തിരുന്ന നമ്മുടെ രാജ്യത്തെ അനേകശതം കുലിക്കാർ പണിയില്ലാതെ തെണ്ടിയലയുന്ന കാഴ്ച, എത്ര മർമ്മഭേദകമായിരിക്കുന്നു. ഇതിനു എന്തു പ്രതിവിധിയാണു് ചെയ്യേണ്ടതു് എന്നുള്ള ഒരു ചോദ്യമായിരിക്കാം പക്ഷെ എന്റെ നേക്കുണ്ടാകുന്നതു്. ഗവൺമെൻറിൽ നിന്നു് വല്ലതുമൊരുതുക ഇവിടെ വാരിച്ചൊരിയണമെന്നോ ഒരു പുതിയ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറു് ഇതിനായി സൃഷ്ടിക്കണമെന്നോ ഞാൻ പറയുന്നില്ല. ഈ വ്യവസായ ശാലകൾ പൂട്ടുന്നതിനുള്ള പ്രധാന കാരണം ഫാക്ടറി ഉപയോഗത്തിനു വേണ്ടതായ കയറു് തിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽനിന്നാണു് ഇറക്കുമതി ചെയ്തിരുന്നതു്. ആ കയറുകൾക്കു തിരുവിതാംകൂർ ഗവൺമെൻറു് "തിരുവ" ചുമത്തിയതോടുകൂടി ഒരു കണ്ടി കയറിനു 8 ർ. വീതം വില കൂടുതൽ കൊച്ചിയിലെ ഫാക്ടറിക്കാർ കൊടുക്കേണ്ടിവന്നു. എന്നാൽ അതേസമയംതന്നെ തിരുവിതാംകൂർ ഫാക്ടറികളിൽ നെയ്യുണ്ടാക്കുന്ന ചാക്കുകൾക്കു് യാതൊരു ചുങ്കവും കൂടാതെ വിദേശരാജ്യങ്ങളിലേക്കു് കയറുമതി ചെയ്യുന്നതിനു് അനുവാദവും നല്കി. തൻമൂലം കൊച്ചി ഫാക്ടറികളിൽ നെയ്യുണ്ടാക്കുന്ന ചാക്കു വിദേശ മാർക്കറ്റുകളിൽ എത്തുമ്പോൾ തിരുവിതാംകൂർ ചാക്കിനേക്കാൾ, ഒരു കണ്ടി തൂക്കമുള്ള ചാക്കിനു 8 ർ. വീതം വില കൂടുകയും തന്നിമിത്തം നമ്മുടെ ചാക്കു് അതേവിലക്കു വില്ക്കാൻ തരമില്ലാതെ നഷ്ടപ്പെട്ടുമൂലമാണു് ഇവിടത്തെ ഫാക്ടറികൾ പൂട്ടുന്നതിനുള്ള പ്രധാന കാരണം. ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട മെമ്പാന്മാരുടെ അറിവിലേക്കു് ഫൻസന്ത-ൽ കൊച്ചിൻ ചേമ്പർ ഓഫ് കോമേഴ്സിന്റെ കണക്കിൽ നിന്നു് ചില രേഖകളെ ഇവിടെ ഉദ്ധരിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു. ടി കൊല്ലം വ്യ്വ്ൻ ർ വ്യ കണ്ടി കയറു് കൊച്ചിയിൽ നിന്നും, അതേ സമയംതന്നെ ആലപ്പുഴയിൽ നിന്നു് ന്യ,ൻ ൻ ഠ കണ്ടിയുമാണു് കയറിറക്കിയിട്ടുള്ളതു്. മേലുദ്ധരിച്ച കയറു് യാതൊരു വ്യവസായപരമായ മാറ്റങ്ങളും വരുത്തിയിട്ടില്ലാത്തവയാണു്. എന്നാൽ ആലപ്പുഴയിൽ നിന്നുള്ള ബാക്കി കയറു് വ്യവസായ പരിവർത്തനം ചെയ്തു് ൈ ,ൻ ൻ ,ഠ ർ ക. വിലയുള്ളതാക്കിത്തീർത്തു് അന്യ രാജ്യങ്ങളിൽനിന്നും പണം വാങ്ങിയ സമയത്തു് നമ്മുടെ രാജ്യത്തു് വ്യവസായ പരിവർത്തനംമൂലം നമുക്കു ലഭിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതു് ഠ ,ൈ ർ ,ൻ ന്യ ക. മാത്രമാണു്. ഇവ രണ്ടിൽ തുലനംചെയ്യുമ്പോൾ ൻ ന ,ഠ ർ ,ഠ വ ഠ ക. വിലയുള്ള കൂടുതൽ Manufactured goods ആലപ്പുഴയിൽ നിന്നയക്കുകയും ഇതുമൂലം വി

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രുന്ന സംഖ്യ അവിടത്തെ ഓഴിലാളികൾക്കു സിദ്ധിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതായും കാണാം. ഇതാണു് നമ്മുടെ കയർ വ്യവസായത്തിന്റെ ഇന്നത്തെ പൂർണ്ണചിത്രം. കൊച്ചിയിൽനിന്നു പോയ ഫാക്ടറികൾ വീണ്ടും കൊച്ചിയിൽതന്നെ വരണമെങ്കിൽ നാം അന്യ രാജ്യക്കാരെ ആശ്രയിക്കാതെ ഫാക്ടറിക്കുപയുക്തമായ വിശേഷതരം കയറു് ഈ രാജ്യത്തുതന്നെ ഉണ്ടാക്കുന്നതിനു് ജനങ്ങളെ പരിശീലിപ്പിക്കണം. അങ്ങിനെ താല്ക്കാലികമായി പിരിച്ചുണ്ടാക്കുന്ന ചരക്കുകൾ ഫാക്ടറികൾ ഇവിടെ തുടങ്ങുന്നവരെയെങ്കിലും വാങ്ങുന്നതിനു് ഗവർമ്മേണ്ടു് വകയ്ക്കായി കൊച്ചിയിൽ ഒരു ഡിപ്പോ തുറക്കുകയും ഇപ്പോഴുള്ള ഫാക്ടറികൾക്കു ഡിപ്പോവിൽനിന്നും ഈ കയറുകൾ വിതരണം ചെയ്യുകയും, ബാക്കിവരുന്ന ചരക്കുകൾ വിദേശങ്ങളിലേക്കു കയറ്റി അയയ്ക്കുകയും ചെയ്താൽ ഗവർമ്മേന്റിനു വലുതായൊരു നഷ്ടവും വരാതെ അടുത്ത ൫ കൊല്ലത്തിനിടയിൽ വ്യവസായപരമായി നമുക്കു് നഷ്ടപ്പെട്ട ൫൩,൫൪,൦൨൦ ക.യും, അതിലും മേൽ വരുന്ന ഒരു സംഖ്യയും അതേ സമയംതന്നെ ൫,൦൩,൦൦൦ ജനങ്ങളുടെ ഒരു കൊല്ലത്തെ ഉപജീവന മാർഗ്ഗവും സാധിച്ചുകൊടുപ്പാൻ കഴിയുമെന്നു് ഈ വ്യവസായത്തിൽ കുറെയെല്ലാം തഴക്കവും, പഴക്കവും ഉണ്ടായിട്ടുള്ള എനിക്കു് ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട ഗവർമ്മേൻറിന്റെ മുമ്പാകെ പൂർണ്ണമായ ഒരു ഉറപ്പു പറയാൻ സാധിക്കുന്നതാണു്.

സർ, മൂന്നാമതായിട്ടാണെങ്കിലും എന്റെ നിയോജകമണ്ഡല പരിധിയിൽ പെട്ട ഏറ്റവും ഉപദ്രവകരവും അപകടകരവുമായ ഫ൦ി൯-ാമാണ്ടു് മുതൽ തുടങ്ങിയിരിക്കുന്ന കടലാക്രമണത്തെ പറ്റിയാണു് എനിക്കു പറവാനുള്ളതു്. അന്നു മുതൽ ഇന്നു വരെ ഫലഭൂയിഷ്ഠമായ എത്ര ഭൂമിയും, അതിൽ പെട്ട എത്ര ശതം വീടുകളും കടലിനിരയായി തീർന്നിട്ടുള്ളതിനെപ്പറ്റി ശരിയായ ഒരു കണക്കു ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട സഭയെ ധരിപ്പിക്കുക പ്രയാസമാണു്. ആ കാലത്തെ ഗവർമ്മേൻറിന്റെ മൌനം മൂലം അനേകം ധനവാന്മാർ ഒരിരുപ്പായും വളരെ നിർദ്ധനർ ഭവന രഹിതരായും, അടുത്ത തിരുവിതാംകൂർ സംസ്ഥാനത്തെ അഭയം പ്രാപിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടു്? ശേഷിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളവർ അവിടെ താമസിക്കുന്നതുതന്നെ ഭയവിഹ്വലരായിട്ടാണു്. ഇനിയും പഴയ മൌനം തന്നെ ഗവർമ്മേൻറു് അവലംബിക്കുന്നതായാൽ അടുത്ത മാവിയിൽതന്നെ എന്റെ നിയോജകമണ്ഡലത്തിന്റെ വലിയൊരു ഭാഗം കൊച്ചിയുടെ ഭൂപടത്തിൽ നിന്നു നീക്കം ചെയ്യേണ്ടതായിവരും. ബീഹാറിൽ അടുത്തു കഴിഞ്ഞ ഭൂമി കുലുക്കത്തിനു് എത്ര പണമാണു് നമ്മുടെ രാജ്യത്തുനിന്നും ദാനമായി കൊടുത്തിട്ടുള്ളതു്. അവിടെ അവർക്കു രാജ്യം പോയിട്ടില്ല. ഇവിടത്തെ സ്ഥിതി അതാണോ? അതിലും പരിതാപകരമായ സ്ഥിതി സ്വന്ത രാജ്യത്തിൽതന്നെ സംഭവിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നതു് ശ്രവിക്കാതിരിക്കുന്നതാണു്. ഏറ്റം സങ്കടകരമായിട്ടുള്ളതു്. എന്നാൽ ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ ദിവാൻജി അവർകൾ തന്റെ ഭയാട്ടഷ്ടി ഇയ്യുള്ളവരുടെ മേൽ പതിച്ചു പരീക്ഷാർത്ഥം ൫,൦൦൦ ക. ചിലവാക്കി ഒരു കരിങ്കൽ ചിറയിട്ടു സംരക്ഷണ സാധിക്കുന്നതാണോയെന്നു നോക്കിയതിനു് അവിടത്തെ ജനങ്ങൾ ആബാലവൃദ്ധം അങ്ങയെ സ്തുതിക്കുന്നുണ്ടു്. എന്നാൽ ഈ ചുരുങ്ങിയ ചിലവുകൊണ്ടു് അതിന്റെ പരിപൂർണ്ണഫലത്തെ കാണിച്ചുകൊടുത്ത ചീഫ് ഇൻജിനീയർ മിസ്റ്റർ അരവിന്ദാക്ഷമേനോനേയും അവർ ഈ അവസരത്തിൽ അഭിനന്ദിക്കതന്നെ ചെയ്യുന്നു. പക്ഷെ ഇതുകൊണ്ടു് കാര്യം സാധിച്ചിട്ടില്ല. ചുരുങ്ങിയ ചിലവു കൊണ്ടു് ഇതു് സാധിച്ചുകൊടുക്കാമെന്നു് കാണിച്ചുകൊടുത്തിട്ടുള്ള ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ ഗവർമ്മേൻറു് ഇനി മൌനം ദീക്ഷിക്കുന്നതു് ശരിയല്ല. അടുത്ത മാരോ കൊല്ലത്തിലും ൫൫,൦൦൦ ക. വീതമെങ്കിലും അനുവദിച്ചാൽ നമ്മുടെ കൊല്ലം മുഴുവനുള്ള ഈ ഭൂവിഭാഗത്തെ സംരക്ഷിക്കുവാൻ സാധിക്കുന്നതാണു്. കൊച്ചി രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ ഭൂപടത്തിൽ നിന്നും ഒരിഞ്ചു ഭൂമിയെങ്കിലും നഷ്ടപ്പെ

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ടുന്നതു കണ്ടുകൊണ്ടിരിപ്പാൻ മനസ്സാകുന്നവരല്ല ഇവിടെയിരിക്കുന്ന അനുദ്യോഗസ്ഥ സാമാജികന്മാരെന്നു് എനിക്കറിയാം. ബഹുമനപ്പെട്ട ഗവൺമെൻറു് ഒന്നു മനസ്സായാൽ മാത്രം മതി.

സർ, എനിക്കിനി അവസാനമായി പറവാനുള്ളതു് എൻറെ നിയോജകമണ്ഡലത്തിലേക്കു അത്യന്താപേക്ഷിതമായ മറൊരു സംഗതിയെക്കുറിച്ചാണു്. കൊച്ചിയിൽനിന്നു് തൊട്ടു തെക്കോട്ടുകിടക്കുന്ന പ്രദേശങ്ങളിൽ ഗതാഗതത്തിനുപയുക്തമായ തരത്തിലുള്ള യാതൊരു സൌകര്യവുമില്ലെന്നുള്ളതാണു് അതു്. കൊച്ചി രാജ്യത്തിൻറെ തെക്കെ അതൃത്തിയായ ചെല്ലാനത്തേക്കു ഒന്നു പോകേണമെന്നുവെച്ചാൽ കായൽ മാർഗ്ഗമായോ കരമാർഗ്ഗമായൊ യാതൊരു കഴിവുമില്ലെന്നുള്ള വസ്തുത ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥപക്ഷത്തുനിന്നതന്നെ തലകുലുക്കി സമ്മതിക്കുന്നതായിരിക്കും. ഈ ഒരു പോരായ്മ പരിഹരിക്കാതിരിക്കുന്നിടത്തോളം കാലം തദ്ദേശവാസികൾ അനുഭവിക്കേണ്ടിവരുന്ന കഷ്ടതകളെ ഞാൻ ഓരോന്നായി എണ്ണാതെ ഈ സഭയുടെ ശ്രദ്ധയ്ക്കുപൂർവ്വമായ ആലോചനക്കു വിട്ടുതരുന്നു. ഇതേ പ്പററി കഴിഞ്ഞ കൊല്ലത്തെ ബഡ്ജററു സമ്മേളനത്തിലും മിസ്റ്റർ പി. ജെ. അലക്സാണ്ടർ കൊണ്ടുവന്നിരുന്ന ഉപക്ഷോപത്തിനു് ഗവൺമെൻറുപക്ഷത്തുനിന്നു് ഗാഢമായി ചിന്തിക്കാമെന്നുണ്ടായെ മറുപടി മാത്രമല്ലാതെ യാതൊന്നും പ്രവൃത്തിയിൽ കൊണ്ടുവരാതിരുന്നതുകൊണ്ടാണു് ഈയവസരത്തിൽ നിങ്ങളുടെ വിലയേറിയ സമയത്തെ ചിലവഴിപ്പിപ്പാൻ ഞാൻ നിർബ്ബന്ധിതനായതു്. മട്ടാഞ്ചേരി പട്ടണം നമ്മുടെ സംസ്ഥാന കച്ചവടകേന്ദ്രമായി സ്ഥിതിചെയ്യുന്നുണെങ്കിലും അതിനു കായൽ മാർഗ്ഗമല്ലാതെ കരമാർഗ്ഗമായി ഒരു സൌകര്യവും ഇപ്പോഴില്ല. വടക്കെ അതൃത്തി വലുതായ തുറമുഖവും കിഴക്കുചരം ആഴമേറിയ കപ്പൽച്ചാലും പടിഞ്ഞാറു് അറബിക്കടലും കഴിഞ്ഞാൽ തെക്കോട്ടുള്ള വഴി ഇടക്കൊച്ചിമുക്കു വരേയും ഒരു ബ്രാഞ്ചുറോഡു് കുമ്പളങ്ങി കടത്തുവരേയും ഇങ്ങിനെ മൂന്നോ നാലോ മൈലിൽ കൂടുതൽ പോകാത്ത ചില ചില്ലറ റോഡുകളല്ലാതെപുറ രാജ്യങ്ങളുമായി സംയോജിക്കപ്പെട്ടിട്ടുള്ള ഒരൊറ്റ റോഡുപോലും ഇല്ലെന്നുള്ള പരമാർത്ഥം വ്യക്തമനസമേതം പറയേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നു. ഇപ്പോൾ എറണാകുളത്തുനിന്നു വെണ്ടുരുത്തിക്കും അവിടന്നു തോപ്പുംപടിക്കും ഒരു റോഡു വരുന്നു എന്നു് കേൾക്കുന്നതു് ശരിയാണെങ്കിൽ ഈ തോപ്പുംപടിയിൽനിന്നു് പടിഞ്ഞാട്ടുള്ള റോഡു് യാതൊരു പാലവും കൂടാതെ ചെല്ലാനം തെക്കെ അതൃത്തിയിൽ കൊണ്ടുചെല്ലാവുന്നതും നമ്മുടെ അതൃത്തിയിൽ റോഡു് എത്തുന്ന അവസരത്തിൽ തിരുവിതാംകൂർ ഗവർമ്മെൻറു് അവിടത്തെ ജനങ്ങളോടു് ആലപ്പുഴ മെയിൻ റോഡുമായി യോജിപ്പിച്ചു കൊടുത്തുകൊള്ളാമെന്നു് ഉറപ്പുനൽകിട്ടുള്ളതാണു്. ഈ ഒരു റോഡുപണി പൂർത്തീകരിച്ചാൽ നമ്മുടെ സംസ്ഥാനത്തിൻറെ വടക്കെ അതൃത്തി മുതൽ തെക്കെ അതൃത്തിയെന്നല്ല കന്യാകുമാരിവരെ യാതൊരു കടത്തും കൂടാതെ കാർ മാർഗ്ഗം പോയി വരാവുന്നതാണു്. സ്റ്റേറു് അതൃത്തിയിൽ ഒരു ടോൾ വെച്ചാൽ ഗവർമ്മെൻറിൽനിന്നു് ചിലവാകുന്ന സംഖ്യ നഷ്ടംകൂടാതെ പിരിച്ചെടുക്കാവുന്നതുമാണു്.

Mr. Puthoor Achyuta Menon: Mr. President, Sir, before entering into a discussion of the Budget proper, let me on behalf of the Constituency extend our kind felicitations to Our gracious Highness for giving us the time-honoured constitutional reform and you, Sir, for feeling the timely pulses of the people and for giving proper direction on the matter. Sir, our sincere wish is that this much-appreciated and off quoted reform should bear the best of fruits that it is intended to produce. In spite of the planting of the Land Mortgage Bank and the Debt

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Conciliation Board, it is a proved fact that its rather and rare unpruned branches do not afford any sort of protection to the ordinary cultivator. In the heat of poverty and misery they wander, in vain they return from the Court corridors and the gates of big offices only to see their dear home crying for a mouthful of that celestial "Kanji". It may be a truth that without paying a day's cost they may be able to enjoy the usufructs of their paternal ancestral property for a week or two. But it is not proved to be a success. It is gratifying to note that the Debt Conciliation Board has been given power to extend the time for the disposal of petitions pending before it. But Sir, unless some more power to effect a drastic cut in the amount of debts is given to the Debt Conciliation Board, I do not think it can afford any sort of protection to the weary peasants. Sir, coming to the Land Mortgage Bank, from your personal experience in Madras, you know that it was found to be not a success there. Here also, I am sorry to state that it has proved to be a failure. The reason is not very far to seek. This is a time when even the richest man finds it impossible to pay the ordinary revenues to the Government. At a time like this how can a poor man seek the help of the Land Mortgage Bank? More power should be given to the Debt Conciliation Board for effecting drastic cuts in debts. The oppressive tastes of the Government and the repressive measures adopted by the landlords make it impossible to the peasants to stand straight.

Sir, when the ordinary peasant finds it impossible to pay Government revenue, the municipality which has appeared in the guise of rare civilization, progress and material advancement hunts him to suck the few drops of blood. In this connection I draw your attention to the miserable plight of the people in Irinjalakkuda.

Sir, coming to the budget proper, it is a gratifying feature to note that for primary education more money compared to the previous budgets has been allotted for this year. It is a proved fact that it is not by importing costly education to the rich through the machinery of colleges but by diffusing the fundamental primary principle of education to the poor more efficiency could be got for the administration and more popularity can be gained by the Government also.

It is gratifying to note that the Government has allotted Rs. 27,000 for departments under the Rural Development Minister. We are sure that improvement in the conditions of the Depressed Classes will be more active, agriculture will be saved and re-construction centres will be opened and efficiency in the administrative systems will be enhanced to the utmost extent.

Sir, a word about my constituency. It is a miserable sight to note that most parts of my constituency is under floods now.

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The Kattur Constituency extends from mountain to sea, Madaikonam near mountains and Vallivattam near deep sea. Unless a small canal one furiong in length is constructed from Kattur padam to Pavody the people of the Kattur constituency cannot have a mouthful of kanji. The scarcity of road and the absence of drinking and bathing water are felt in all villages. I have nothing more to add than to draw your kind attention and the attention of the Rural Reconstruction Minister to the sad plight of our people and to request you on behalf of my constituency to save them from this calamity. With these few words, I resume my seat.

Mrs. Thankamma N. Menon: Hon'ble President, Sir, I take this opportunity to congratulate the Government for introducing responsible Government for which the subjects of this State and especially the members of this Council were agitating for some time. Our thanks are due to you, Sir, for having advised His Highness the Maharaja the necessity of introducing constitutional reforms in our State. We, the subjects of this small State are very proud of our beloved Maharaja who has given a lead to the other 600 and odd Indian princes. And we hope that they will take up the lead given by our benevolent ruler without much delay.

I congratulate the Minister for Rural Development on his appointment and hope that the Development Department entrusted to his care will make rapid and steady progress under his able guidance and the villagers living in the remotest part of the State will be benefitted by this new appointment.

Now, Sir, I, on behalf of my sisters in the State, thank you for introducing election of lady candidates instead of the old system of nomination as recommended by the Franchise Committee. We also thank the Government for having increased our representation in the Council. But Sir, we have got a very serious grievance. My friend Mrs. Iyyunni and myself are in theory the representatives of women in the State, but in practice we are not that at all, because in our constituencies more than 60 per cent of the voters are men. Further, it is more difficult for us to fight an election in a women's constituency than in an ordinary general constituency. In a general constituency, Ezhuvas and Latin Christians who have communal electorates are not allowed to vote, whereas they are allowed to vote in our constituencies thereby increasing the number of voters in our constituencies. Now take the case of my constituency itself. Though the territorial extent of the general constituency of Ernakulam is the same as that of mine, there is a large difference between the two (in the number of voters.) There are only about 4,300 voters in the Ernakulam general constituency whereas

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there are 6,500 voters in my constituency. The case of the Trichur Women's Constituency is worse. There, in the 2 General Constituencies north and south, there are only about 4,039 voters and 3,407 voters respectively, whereas in the Women's Constituency itself there are about 8,000 voters.—More than the other two put together.

In the recent election, my friend here who has been returned from the Trichur Women's Constituency was very lucky. On the one side she had the support of her husband who was also fighting the election, in one part of the Trichur town, and on the other side she had the support of a member of her own party who was also fighting the election.

But we Sir, cannot hope to have such advantage at all elections. So I hope that the Government will see that the present rules are modified in such a way that in the Women's Constituency Women alone are allowed the right of voting.

Now, Sir, I find from the report on the administration of the Medical Department for the year 1112, the total expenditure under the head of Anti-rabic treatment is Rs. 6,234. At present we don't know whether there is an increase or decrease in this figure for the year 1113.

I have a suggestion to make and I hope that the Chief Medical Officer will find his way to accept it. At present the course of anti-rabic treatment is given only at the General Hospital at Ernakulam and the Civil Hospital at Trichur. People from villages and towns which are situated far away from these centres, find it very inconvenient to come all the way and have this treatment at either of these places. I understand that they are paid about 4 or 5 as. per day during the course of this treatment, which takes about 14 days. Perhaps in the case of a man he may just manage to live on with this small allowance. But in the case of a woman this amount is not sufficient as she has to bring either her husband, (if she is married) or a relative of hers, and if she has a baby in arms, it becomes all the more difficult.

Further, comes the question of finding a suitable lodging especially in the case of a woman. So I suggest that when a case of this type is reported at any of the Government Hospitals or dispensaries, the Doctor in charge may be empowered to get the necessary vaccine either from Coonoor Pasteur Institute or from the General Hospitals of Ernakulam or Trichur and treat the patients free (if she or he is poor) as is now done at Trichur and Ernakulam. If such a system is introduced the daily allowance allowed to such patients may also be stopped. Thereby the Medical Department could save a lot of money.

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Now, I wish to draw the attention of the Government to another very important point, vital to the interest of women. I refer to Child welfare and maternity benefits. A bill was introduced by Mrs. Williams in the last Council recommending the appointment of mid-wives in rural areas, so that the poor women may get the help of trained mid-wives. Now many women die year after year by the bad handling of labour cases by ignorant barber women. The time has come to take up these matters seriously and I trust the attention of the hon'ble Minister for Rural Development will be drawn to this important question.

Now Sir, I congratulate the Hon'ble the Finance Member for presenting us not only with a balanced budget, but with a surplus budget. Only those of us who have to prepare our family budgets know how difficult it is even to make a balanced budget in these days of depression.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar : Sir, it looks meaningless to congratulate the Government on any surplus budget that they may place before this House as very often it is found that the year ends as a deficit one. Sir Shanmukham's Government is responsible for the results of the years 1111 and 1112 and 1113 and it is unfortunate that the budget of 1111 and 1112 would have ended in a deficit of ·96 and 1·15 lakhs of rupees respectively and this year is anticipated to end with a deficit of 2·71 lakhs. Let me hope that Sir Shanmukham's Government will have better luck in the next three years, not by the sale of landed property which as everybody knows in the case of ordinary persons is only the penultimate step to the insolvency courts.

In 1113 a shortage of 6·53 lakhs under customs mainly due to the falling off of the import of sugar, is note-worthy. It is small consolation to think with the Diwan President that the falling off of our revenue under sugar import is due to the successfully building up of the sugar industry in India. A day then may soon come when there may be still further falls in our customs revenue as industry after industry, to wit, cement, iron, soaps, etc., is successfully built up in India. It will no doubt be a very good consolation if the fall in the customs revenue is directly due to the successful building up of any industry in our own State. But unfortunately the Diwan says that there is not much scope for the expansion of large scale industries in our State. Let me however hope that Government will concentrate their attention on the development of Industries of smaller scale and cottage industries. The Diwan's remarks on the question of water-supply to the Town of Trichur are far from satisfactory. I am no doubt aware that at present the practice is to throw the

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responsibility of taking the initiative on the local bodies. Public Health is a matter of national concern and where local bodies fail to take adequate steps to safeguard it the Government should see that the subject is not neglected. Life in Trichur during summer is becoming more and more miserable and the dust nuisance and the awfully stinking drains are really becoming unbearable. It is not the Town's people alone that are affected by the insanitary conditions of the Towns but the hundreds and thousands of villagers who have to visit the towns every now and then are also equally affected. It is therefore the imperative duty of the Government to see that the towns are kept in a most sanitary way and not be content with throwing the blame on the Municipality for the sanitary condition of the town.

It is no doubt flattering to us to see that the first place, on the Government Bench is now occupied by an elected representative of the people and the grant of responsible government although a limited extent, perhaps demands that we on this side of the House should approach the Budget in a manner somewhat different from what has been usual with us. I have always believed that destructive criticism should yield place to constructive suggestions and it is in this spirit that I approach the Budget to-day. We are asked to believe that the Minister is independent of the Diwan. We are also told that in case of any difference of opinion between the Diwan and the Minister the matter will be referred to His Highness and His Highness' decision will be final. If the Minister is independent of the Diwan what is the scope for a clash between him and the Diwan unless it be in the matter of one asking for more money for carrying on the administration of departments under him and the other not being inclined to give so much. It is therefore up to us to see that the Minister asks for adequate funds for improving the administration of the Departments under him and we shall not stop short of putting up a terrible fight to see that the amount asked for is sanctioned. The special grant of Rs. 20,000 for rural development seems to be too small a sum. But we had not had sufficient time to discuss with the Minister the plan of his work and what sum he will require to carry the plans into effect. The Government must be prepared to meet more demands from the Minister in a short time and we on this side of the House will support him with a united voice.

While the Staff Selection Board has no doubt given general satisfaction, it should not be forgotten that it has been responsible for some deterioration of efficiency. Three remedies that I have to commend to the consideration of the Government are 1. Recognition of merit and giving first place to it while

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selecting candidates from any community. 2. Equipping the recruits with experience in the kind of work they are likely to be called upon to do in the first instance. Precis writing, dictation, translation and essay writing should be made compulsory subjects in the School Final Examination. 3. In the matter of superior services success in the Civil Service Examination should be made obligatory.

Another matter that I bring to the notice of the Government is the necessity for the creation of a Department of Statistics. No question of any importance such as the unemployment problem, starting of any practical Industry, the advisability of making arrangements for the large scale import of any articles of necessity or the restriction of the export of any such articles can be tackled without proper statistics. All first-class States have a department of statistics and we should certainly not lag behind.

Speaking about unemployment every effort must be made by Government to get for Cochinites greater representation in Harbour and Railway Services. Under Land Revenue and Agriculture I desire to make the following few remarks.

1. Cattle-grazing grounds are now utterly useless as there are no fodder or grass. Agricultural Department should be directed to grow fodder grass.

2. Encroachments by the Depressed Classes into cattle-grazing grounds should be stopped and it shoud be made penal in all cases.

3. When our State is not producing enough for us to feed upon it is most imporper to allow any lands to lie waste and Government should resume all such lands if left uncultivated for a continuous period of three years on payment of half-market value.

4. Increased provision of water supply and irrigation facilities must be made by providing wells, tanks and reservoirs in suitable places.

5. Lands should be given on concessional terms for cultivation of catch crops such as cigarette tobacco, sugar cane and mulbery leaves for silk-worm rearing. Agricultural Department should be asked to make a comprehensive report on this.

6. Breed of cattle should be improved. Castration of the unfit and a system of registering and marketing approved cattle must be introduced as some countries have done.

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Under public health, I have to suggest the following:—

1. State should organise physical culture. Establish gymnasiums in towns and encourage private gymnasiums. 2. Travelling hospitals, caravans and boats with an efficient doctor in charge to treat and prevent epidemic diseases must be organised. 3. Starting at State expense, day nurseries by the side of factories, so that working mothers could leave their babies in their charge and eke out some livelihood.

Under education while I do not grudge to spend any amount for liquidating illiteracy it is high time that Government withdraws their institutions from places where there are private institutions. The money thus saved may well be utilised for conducting schools for juvenile offenders and adult convicts. In these schools more attention will be paid for industrial teaching. Government may usefully decide to withdraw their High Schools from towns where there are private schools and start one Law College. More Village Libraries and up-to-date Central Library attached to the Trichur Town Hall are very desirable.

Under Industries, it is no doubt encouraging to find that the development of cottage industry has been entrusted to the charge of the popular Minister. But how far it will be possible to substantially develop the cottage industries without cheap electric power remains to be seen. I am reliably informed that most of the cottage industries in Japan, Scotland and other European counties are what they are because of the availability of cheap electric power. To me it seems that the only way of solving the unemployment problem in the State is the development of cottage industries and small scale industries, side by side with the improvement of agriculture and these can be done only by making cheap electricity available. The Hydro electric scheme has to be tackled and Sir, I fully believe, if it is not done in your time, it is not going to be done for years to come.

Under public works, I have to bring to the notice of the Chief Engineer the following. Many of the canals which really form a net work, connecting many villages with one another and which were affording irrigation facilities to agriculture have now become filled up and need dredging to serve any useful purpose. Government owned lifting pumps to be let out on hire for the not very affluent Kole cultivators will be very helpful. The popularising of rubber tyred Bullock carts, by subsidies if necessary will minimise the expenditure on road repairs and will go a good way in solving the dust problem. A regular 4 or 5 year plan with a view to bring to use for agriculture in summer, the millions of gallons of water that are flowing through our rivers

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and wasted into the sea will increase considerably the material property of our State and turn our State into a Ramarajya. These suggestions will be possible of being given effect to only if a cry of halt is given to the expenditure. I am almost tempted to say waste on buildings.

A contented people is the best asset of the State and we all know that nothing will give greater pleasure to our beloved Maharaja than to see that the average Cochinite is above wants and misery. You, Sir, have the unique privilege of enjoying the full confidence of a most benevolent ruler. You are shrewd and intelligent. You are still in the prime of your life and you may be glad to know that after 3 years of your administration people have now really begun to talk that you are really anxious to make the State a first-class one. I assure you of our hearty co-operation in making our State a Ramarajya and let me hope that the good-will which the people are now universally showing towards the Government will only more and more increase in the days to come so that when after years when you lay down the reins of Office you will be able to exclaim 'I have allowed nothing to stand between myself and the State and I have done all that I can, to make the State a first class one. The public will then respond 'Amen'.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon : Mr. President Sir, His Highness the Maharaja, the Diwan and the Government had chorous of congratulations individually and collectively. It does not therefore require me to take up the time of the House by speaking on those lines

It is very curious to find that the members of this House are under the impression that they are not the least responsible for one part of Cochin State and that is the constituency which I happen to represent. The general view seems to be that Cranganur does not form part of the State, the only exception being the Finance Member who with religious fervour hopes that a normally unbalanced budget will become balanced. Now I shall suggest to Government some means by which a budget which has been unbalanced for a number of years, which seems in the opinion of Government to continue unbalanced for a number of years more can be made to balance if only the thing is viewed from a proper angle. I do not think that Government will say that Cranganur is not a part of Cochin State. As far as the Education budget is concerned, it is an anomaly that Government makes it a point to give aid to educational institutions in Cochin State most of them being fiscally autonomous, the only control of Government being in the matter

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of supervision and superintendence. Now my claim on behalf of Cranganur is that Cranganur is spending to the tune of nearly Rs. 59,000 on account of Education. And there is no reason whatsoever that Cranganur should not be given some aid which has been given to other private institutions. If Cranganur is regarded as a principality with separate income and expenditure but in Cochin State, then my argument is re-inforced that being a private institution controlled and managed by Cochin State, it is the duty on the part of Government to contribute from General revenues of Cochin. I think it is a very reasonable claim on behalf of Cranganur and I should like to know what exactly the Government attitude in this matter will be. Another aspect which I should like to place before this House as regards the Cranganur Budget is the fact that though the Cranganur's receipts are classified under various heads, the receipts under one particular head seem to have been thoroughly under estimated for a number of years in spite of the recommendations of the Special Audit Officer. I am referring to the revenue under 'salt'. Now, the figure in the Cranganur budget under 'salt' is given as Rs. 12,140. Sir, this figure is arrived at on a calculation of the amount of consumption by the population of Cranganur, the criterion to arrive at the figure being the duty of Re. 1/4 per maund. This figure is changed in 1106 or so to Rs. 1—9—0 per maund and as such Cranganur is entitled to get 25 per cent of the increase which would mean Rs. 3,000 for a year and in that way for the last 7 years Cranganur has been consistently loosing Rs. 3,000 per annum. So that amount would come to Rs. 25,000. This should be borne by the general revenues. My contention is that this amount could be utilised for giving aid to educational institutions in Cranganur. Then there seems to be no cause for a charge that Cranganur budget is always a deficit one and the budget could be made a balanced one.

As regards the General Budget is concerned all the principles enunciated from the days of Adams Smith up to these days have been mentioned by the hon'ble member for Adoor and the hon'ble member for Planters and I do not want to reiterate them. Now, one aspect of the budget, I would place before the House. The Diwan when he opened the submerged pipeline in Mattancheri happened to remark with great emphasis that the problem of water-supply is a problem of vital importance for the littoral. And he congratulated Mattancheri for having an adequate system of water supply. I am surprised now to find that the Head of Administration could not realise the fact that from Vypeen to Pallipuram there is absolutely no drinking-water. The budget seems to make precise provisions for Guest Houses

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and Guest House Superintendent, etc. A large section of the population in my constituency happens to be without any drinking-water. I hope the Government will bear this matter in mind and do what they can in the matter. The only provision made in the budget seems to be provision for boring operations in Chellanam. This has been the only policy for a number of years. No water seems to have been supplied so that I do not know whether a provision for boring should be incorporated in the budget. Something more helpful and tangible should be incorporated.

Another aspect of the budget that I should like to place before the House is that there is absolutely no meaning in having in the budget lump provisions for strengthening the Law Department. One cannot get any idea as to the spending of such amounts. I think it is really unfair in placing such a budget before us without giving us an opportunity to know what the object of this lump provision is. One more point I should like to stress, before I close. There is no meaning for giving a large amount under head 'Miscellaneous'. I think I am right in concluding that all non-official members and Government members except the Finance Member will be in a position to understand what exactly that head means. More details should be given in respect of such items, so that we might be in a position to understand what exactly is meant by the budget and the figures of the budget.

The House rose for the day at 4—15 p. m.

Mr. B. V. KRISHNANKUTTY MENON,
Secretary to the Council.

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